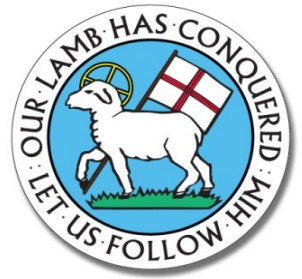


April, 2012

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

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]



Resurrection--Jesus is still the way, the truth and the life

"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." -1 Corinthians 15:17



Louis Farrakan, the Nation of Islam Leader gave what some commentators described as a rousing speech at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre in Antigua on Wednesday March 28, 2012. Based on some of the comments on radio, it seemed to me as if the Resurrection has broken in upon us. It seems as if something new; something miraculous; something extraordinary took place; that he brought some new revelation; some new doctrine hitherto before unheard of. Yes, there can be no denial that it was a massive crowd. While I appreciate his forthrightness in his pronouncements, I believe that he needed to

live in the country and understand the dynamics at work before venturing into some waters based upon what he was told by others about life in Antigua and Barbuda.

Farrakan spoke of the fact that we should have food security and sustainability. In other words, we must get heavily into agriculture and feed ourselves. A very good point for we do not know what others are feeding us with. We are making others rich while we remain poor. This is nothing new. We have been told this time and again. As a Church, we ourselves have been preaching this. Two years ago the Moravian Church in Antigua launched such a program with the distribution of seedlings and fertilizers to anyone who needed in an effort to increase backyard gardening, food security and food sustainability.

He spoke of Unity in the country. A very good point for this country is ours and we must work for the betterment of it. We all must seek to live at peace with each other and do not allow politics to destroy each other. This is nothing new. This message has been preached so often, but are we listening and are we acting? I suppose as Jesus once said and paraphrased by me, "a King has no honour in his own country". Farrakan said it and it sounds like music to the ears.

Farrakan spoke of how our women dress and suggested that it seem as if they devalue themselves. Not only that, he asked the question, who is providing the attire for our women? It is no longer our mothers who is sewing, but the multinationals that have the money, who is now dictating how we dress. He made special mention of the short suggestive dresses that dazzle the eyes of the Pastors when we go to preach, so much so that at times we forget our text. This is nothing new. A great number of our Pastors have preached about the way some persons dress for worship and on the street. Many of us have been abused and called all sorts of names because we dare to suggest that our women should dress more modestly. A new Sheriff came in town, briefly and he is lauded for speaking about the dress of our women.

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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

MAILING ADDRESS:

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We have long known that the economic power in most of our Caribbean Islands lie with the Syrians, Lebanese, Indians, Chinese, Jews, Europeans and Americans. The Afro Caribbean population, though it is breaking into sharing a piece of the economic power, is not as powerful or united as the other groupings.

Our Caribbean or Afro Caribbean brothers and sisters do not enjoy seeing each other progress and so we try to pull down and destroy each other when progress is being made. He spoke of the fact that education is the key. This is a fact that has been emphasized all of the time, but drugs, guns, gangs and prisons have engulfed especially our young men. While we are destroying ourselves, others are prospering and moving ahead. So we have the politics, but they have the business. This is nothing new, but a new Sheriff came to town briefly and he is lauded for saying this. Many of us have been saying this for years.

Farrakan pronounced that he has nothing against the Queen, but if we are free why is her image still on our dollar? He pronounced that the image of VC Bird senior should be on the dollar for the tremendous work he did as father of the nation. A wonderful suggestion, but I believe that he should ask our leaders to lobby for such to happen, knowing that the currency union involves 8 countries. There then has to be negotiation and compromise.

If there is one thing I credit Farrakan with is that he had a good sense of his audience. He must have heard that as a Nation, Antigua and Barbuda, unlike Trinidad and Tobago is probably 96% Christian. I believe that he confounded many Christians by quoting extensively from both the Old and New Testaments. He told some of the stories in the Bible and dare to exegete them. Ninety nine out of one hundred times, he was on the ball. The point been made here is that he has read and sought to understand the Bible, the Christians text book. Too many Christians cut themselves off from understanding other Religions. One cannot adequately speak about other religious beliefs if he or she doesn't understand the dynamics at work in them. Farrakan used his oratorical and psychological skills to the maximum. He rarely quoted from the Quran and when he did, not much time was spent exegeting the text. Farrakan spoke of many other things but this will suffice for our purposes at this time.

As we approach another Easter, I want to suggest that without the Resurrection of Jesus, there is no hope.

Jesus turned our darkness into light, when on that Resurrection morning; he rose triumphantly, to conquer death, hell and the grave. He has brought new life to a dying world. The passages below will demonstrate this.

"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." -John 10:17-18

"Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead." - John 20:6-9

"God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it." -Acts 2:24

"And was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord." -Romans 1:4

"Who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."-Romans 4:25

As a non-believer looking in at Christianity it would not be much of a stretch to think that the most important part of Christianity is what we celebrate at Christmas. That is the holiday full of decorations and presents and songs and movies. And yes, the coming of God in the form of man was a glorious thing, but the reason it was so wonderful is specifically for what was accomplished 33 years later in the event we celebrate by Easter.

It is with Easter that we remember and rejoice at the resurrection of Christ. The same Christ who three days earlier gave up his life on the cross in order to pay the penalty of our sins, now takes his life back up to show that death no longer has hold. It is because of this that we are able, as it says above, to be justified, or made clean and righteous before God. This is important because unless we are righteous we have no hope of living eternally in the presence of the Holy God. As the apostle Paul says, if Christ were not raised then we are totally hopeless. However, knowing that he has been resurrected we should celebrate all the more, for this is the only power which can free us from our sins!

Jesus gives a sense of destiny, a sense of unity, a sense of our economy, a sense of our relations with each other, a sense of uprightness and holiness. Jesus gives us a sense of the future and the social Ministry that we owe to each other and the community we live in. The text from Luke Chapter 4 will demonstrate this.

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¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

¹⁷And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

¹⁹To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

²⁰And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. (Luke 4:16-20).

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty solidify the centrality of the person of Jesus Christ when they penned the song, "In Christ Alone". It speaks of Him being our all in all and He is truly all in all.

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
For every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay
light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

Have a Blessed Easter and Jesus rise triumphantly in your life. Shine for Him each day and bless the lives of others.

STATEMENT TO BE READ

Moravian Music Sunday, May 6, 2012

On May 6, 2012 we celebrate the rich musical heritage God has given to the Moravian Church, a heritage that stems from the Ancient Unity in Bohemia and Moravia in the 15th century, expanded in the 18th century in Germany, and continues to thrive in the worldwide Moravian Church today. Music can be a wonderful means of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, speaking to the heart in ways that words alone cannot. When we sing together or play instruments, we share in the song of the church triumphant in heaven, those saints who have gone before us and sing their praises to God and to Jesus Christ our Savior.

Johannes Herbst, who lived from 1735 to 1812, was a faithful servant of God, a minister, teacher, and school administrator, as well as a musician. He was an organist and a composer, and he copied the pieces of many other composers for his own private music library. He also wrote some 200 musical compositions of his own, all for use in worship services. Brother Herbst was born in Germany, and joined the Moravian Church at age 13. He came to America at the age of 50, and served in Lancaster and Lititz, Pennsylvania, for twenty-five years before he was elected a bishop and called to move to Salem, North Carolina – yes, at the age of 76! He and Sister Herbst obeyed this call, but he only lived to serve seven months in Salem, where he died and was buried.

God has given to us in the Moravian Church a heart for music, and special gifts in composing music, writing words, and singing and playing from that heart. On this Sunday, set aside for us to recognize the value that our music has played in our worship and in our lives, we are thankful that God gave us this gift, which can draw us closer to one another and to our God. Through music, may we learn to love one another more fully, and in so doing, to love our Savior more deeply. Thanks be to God!



Reflections on Rev. Romeo Challenger

by Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis



The Rev. Romeo Challenger was born in the village of Liberta on August 12, 1948. He was the fourth of seven children for his parents, Ida and Samuel Challenger. His father predicted that he was going to be a Minister of Religion. The first time this was told to Rev. Challenger was the day he left for College in Jamaica. His father did not live to see his prediction fulfilled as he departed this life when Romeo was nine. His mother assumed the responsibility of raising seven children without a father. She did a wonderful job as all of her children are making significant contributions to society.

He grew up in the Gracehill Moravian Church in Liberta and played many roles in the Church over the years. He was Sunday School Teacher, Delegate to Island Conference, Treasurer, Superintendent of the Sunday school and Leader of the Youth Group.

He attended the Gracehill/Liberta Primary School and All Saints Secondary School. He also attended the United Theological College of the WI in Jamaica and Codrington College/University of the West Indies, graduating with a Diploma in Ministry and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Theology. At the time of his death he was pursuing a Masters Degree in Pastoral Counselling.

In his work experience, Rev. Challenger taught for four years at the Goodwill Academy specializing in Geography.

Having been called to the Ministry, he entered the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica from 1974-1978. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology and a Diploma in Ministerial Studies. At the time of his passing, he was pursuing a Masters degree in Pastoral Counselling.

He was Ordained a Pastor on July 23, 1978 at the Gracehill Moravian Church by Bishop John E. Knight. In July 1989 he was Consecrated a Presbyter by Bishop Selvin U. Hastings.

From 1978 to 2012, Rev. Challenger has worked tirelessly to share the Gospel wherever he went. He was a very dedicated and committed Pastor. He has touched the lives of hundreds of persons throughout the Caribbean over the 34 years he served as an Ordained Pastor.

Rev. Challenger worked in St. Kitts from 1978-1981; in Tobago from 1981-1985; in Barbados from 1986-1993; in Antigua for the past 19 years from 1993-2012.

He was Superintendent of the Moravian Church in Antigua from 1996-2003 and during that time he served as the President of the Antigua Christian Council for two terms. At the time of his passing he was Chaplain of the Senate of Antigua and Barbuda and a Member of the Police Service Commission, two institutions where he performed with distinction. For many years he was the Supervisor of CXC Exams at the Antigua Girls High School and then at the Antigua State College for the Cape Exams. He always saw his involvement as his civic responsibility to give back to his country; the country that nurtured and molded him.

He was an avid Sportsman and actually played competitive cricket and Volley ball. In cricket, he represented his village Liberta, St. Paul's Parish, the University of the West Indies and the United Theological College of the West Indies as an opening batsman with much success. He gave leadership to all those teams. He tried to rub it in my face from time to time that his highest score of 97 was against Swetes. In those days, Swetes and Liberta had some fierce competition between themselves in cricket.

He has touched many lives and has always given thanks to God for allowing him to have served in so many communities and capacities. God surrounded him with a host of able Leaders, friends, young and old, Lay and Ordained, who never ceased to lift him up in prayer every day.

Rev. Romeo Challenger gave much credit to his mother Ida Challenger for his early development. His sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, in laws and Teachers at the Liberta Primary School and All Saints Secondary Schools have contributed to the affirmation of God's call upon his life. The Gracehill Moravian Church provided the atmosphere for his faith development and spiritual growth.

He would be sorely missed by his partner in Ministry and wife Deborah, his daughter Shanna and his son Christopher.

The 34 years of Ministry presented many challenges for Rev. Challenger, but through it all, God's love provided the sustaining power. He was for me a wonderful Pastor and friend. Indeed, he was a man of God, who sought to do his best with the gifts that God blessed him with. We did not always agree on everything, but the friendship never wavered.

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**Cont'd from Page 4**

He served well and would be missed by the Community at large, but more especially the Moravian Community. We will all miss him, especially his laughter and camaraderie and his uprightness.

We have shared a strong bond of friendship from 1983, when I worked in Trinidad and he worked in Tobago. We cooked lunch and went to see cricket together at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad. When he was called to Barbados, I would journey to Barbados from Tobago for us to go to watch cricket at the Kensington Oval in Barbados. I am the God Father of his son Christopher, whom I also baptized in Trinidad. Romeo was my Best man in 1985 when



The Late Rev. Romeo Challenger

I got married and on September 8th, 1993 when he got married in Grenada to his wife Deborah, I journeyed to Grenada to share in the ceremony.

Rev. Challenger passed into the nearer presence of God on Saturday March 10, 2012 at the Mount St. John Medical centre after a period of illness. He was buried at the Gracehill Moravian Church Cemetery in

Liberta the place where he had fond memories of, having attended the Gracehill Moravian School next door.

May our brother, Pastor, Colleague and friend rest in peace eternal.

Without Easter (By Joanna Fuchs)

Without Easter,
there would be no hope of heaven.

Without the hope of heaven,
there would be no repentance,
no personal transformation,
no attempt to follow biblical principles. Without Easter,
the world would be in chaos and darkness.

Jesus' death and resurrection
means we can be reborn,
to live better, to do better,
to shine light into the shadows.
Hallelujah! Happy, Happy Easter.



**Excerpts of Tribute:
from
Rev. Charlesworth Edwards**

My earliest memory of Romeo Challenger was as a member of the K.D.S. Movement at a rally at Greenbay Moravian Church in the 1960s. You



couldn't miss him. Boys were a rare commodity at Church functions, in those days. So the presence of one or two in a sea of girls was unmistakable. I can see him now. He had a big head, a wiry frame, tall skinny legs, in platform shoes and stepping ever so gingerly. You had to notice him, because as Antiguan people say: "He was Science".

We didn't speak on that occasion, but it seems that we were destined to meet again. That meeting took place in 1974 when he turned up again as my travelling companion. He was on his way to UTCWI, Kingston, Jamaica to begin his long journey to sacred Ministry, I was returning to begin my third year.

We both travelled on the same BWIA flight to Kingston and though I had some idea of what awaited him, I was sworn to secrecy. I made sure he arrived safely but when we arrived and the initiation ceremony began, he was on his own. I knew better. The Holy Woods has its sacred traditions and I didn't want to run afoul of them. Let me leave it at that.

Since June of last year when Romeo has either been sick or pretending he wasn't, Deborah has been doing the heavy lifting, keeping her family together, running a business and rearing a teenage Shanna. And so although the last six months have been very frustrating, for me personally, I have been trying from Staten Island, to offer advice and support to her on the phone or in writing as the need arose.

I am going to miss that playful banter and deep belly laugh because that was the essence of who he was. He wouldn't hurt a fly. He would rather make a joke and invoke your laughter than to fight with you. That is a rare gift. I suspect he discovered that, over time, to be a very disarming behavioral tool. Maybe he discovered early that it is impossible to laugh and be angry at the same time. Hence his frequent employment of that devise.

**TRIBUTE BY REV. VERA WAITHE, SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH
BARBADOS CONFERENCE**

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ and on behalf of the Moravian Church Family in Barbados. I include members of staff and laity who are present as well as those who could not be here but send their greetings. We join with you our brothers and sisters in thankfulness to Almighty God for the life of our brother Rev. Romeo Challenger.



Bro Challenger served the Sharon and Dunscombe congregations and also had a short stint at the Gracehill congregation.

At the level of the Conference, he was the first Radio Pastor of Moravian Voice, our weekly outreach ministry. He was the first Principal and Dean of our Lay Academy and approached both roles with much enthusiasm and professionalism.

While he served in Barbados, he emphasized the importance of missions and motivated his congregations and Conference generally to increase their giving and involvement in missions.

Rev. Challenger was very much Barbadian. He was trained at the renowned Codrington College in Barbados and this institution would have helped to shape and enhance his concept of ministry. Bro Challenger also took unto himself as wife, the beautiful Deborah, a daughter of Barbados.

Barbadians like the rest of you were drawn to Bro Romeo's attractive attire. Women in Church and the society simply adore his "high church" dress which he always carried with such grace and dignity.

The Sharon congregation was special to Bro. Challenger and he was invited back on many occasions. He had a special relationship with his "Helpers" now Elders Board and his ministry to the sick and shut-in was exemplary. Sharon our oldest Moravian Church in Barbados is a historic and national edifice built by slaves. Major refurbishment was completed during his tenure as pastor. He is thus remembered for his contribution to our heritage and maintaining the beauty of the historic Sharon.

Representatives of the congregation are here today sharing in this service.

It was decided to make available a condolence book so that a greater number of persons could still share in this act of celebration of the life of Bro Challenger. The pastor Rev. Parris then permitted the rest of the Conference to join with Sharon in signing this book to be presented to the wife of Bro. Challenger.

On behalf of the Executive Board, Staff and all members of the Moravian Church in Barbados, please accept our condolences. To Sis Debra, Shanna, Chris and relatives, we share your loss. Sis Debra, be assured that your Barbadian family is standing with you. Be comforted in the knowledge of the presence and power of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.



**TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF
THE MORAVIAN CHURCHES OF THE TRINIDAD AND**

TOBAGO CONFERENCES

Read by Rev. Devon Mannix

This Tribute is paid in remembrance of our departed Brother, The Rev. Romeo Challenger, who worked in the Tobago Conference for many years both as a student in ministerial training and later as the Pastor for Montgomery, Black Rock and Bon Accord congregations.



The church recalls the deep commitment of this stately pastor who was often seen immaculately dressed in his robes going from house to house to visit his members. Whenever he wore his robes to Scarborough, many cars will stop and drivers would tip their brows to show respect to this new pastor in town. He was a loving pastor and many lives were won through his ministry.

Rev. Challenger brought a new spirit to the church with his well-developed sermons, his winsome laughter, his open-door policy for youth and children to visit the manse. He enjoyed playing cricket with his confirmands in the church yard. Rev. Challenger found love in Tobago and we will always love him. The Church in Tobago Conference was in constant prayer during his time of illness. We sought to give our financial support to assist with the medical bills. We kept hoping that God would allow us the opportunity to hear him deliver his testimony but we are reminded by the Psalmist that "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints".

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Rev Romeo did not serve as a pastor in the Trinidad Conference. However, since the Tobago and Trinidad Conferences are inextricably intertwined, many of our members were of his pastoral care while living in Tobago or during their times of visiting or vacationing there. They speak fondly of him especially those who were members of the Bethesda, Black Rock and Montgomery Congregations in Tobago.

Therefore, today we join the Tobago Conference in expressing our deepest condolences by reminding you of the words of the writer of Ecclesiastes who said ***"There is time and season for every event under Heaven. There is a time to weep and a time to mourn."*** So we in Trinidad say to you today: yes today is a day of mourning. Today is a day to weep. You have lost a loved one - and it hurts.

Please do not deny your feelings - grieve long and grieve full. For when you grieve healing takes place. We believe that God has given the gift of tears to help us cleanse our spirits. Tears come from deep within us to cleanse, and purge, and open the way for the fresh waters of life--living waters of faith. And faith is the tool that brings healing. God has promised to be with us. In fact, God has come to be near us in His Son Jesus. It is faith in Jesus, his life saving death and resurrection that gives us hope. So mourn, weep and be refreshed and renewed.

To Christopher, Deborah and Shaina, we want to assure you that our prayers are with you. To all his relatives and all the members of the Antigua Conference, we, the Superintendents, Ministerial staff and entire membership in Tobago and Trinidad extend our deepest condolences and pray you find comfort in this act of worship and service of thanksgiving. May the soul of our brother rest in peace.

We know that he has left a legacy in the church but more-so we are comforted in the knowing that he has "fought a good fight and he has finished the race and he has kept the faith." We believe as Paul said to Timothy that there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to [him] on that Day, and not to [him] only but also to all who have loved His appearing".

"I am sorry that I cannot be there in person but I share this tribute, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Ministerial Staff, Executive Board and Members of the entire Tobago Conference as we assure you of our prayers and support during this time of great loss."

May the souls of our dear departed rest in peace.

**TRIBUTE BY REV.NIGEL DANIEL, SUPERINTENDENT,
THE MORAVIAN CHURCH, ANTIGUA CONFERENCE**

My family in Christ I greet you in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Chief Elder.



Today we have gathered to celebrate the life of another fallen soldier of Christ. Rev. Challenger. He spent more than half his life in the ministry of Christ serving his church for the glory of God. Rev. Challenger loved his church with a passion. The Moravian church, the Christian community has lost a devoted servant of God but heaven has gained another soul. In fact the psalmist reminds us in Psalm 116vs 15 "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints". Although heaven has gained a soul it is never easy to cope with the reality of death. The death of our brother has left an aching void in ours which only in the course of time can heal. It is very difficult for ministerial staff and more so the family today because Rev. Challenger holds a very special place in our hearts.

For us as staff in this Conference we are going to miss his jokes and exuberant laughter. During this first innings of life he was allowed to bat for 63 years. I use cricketing jargon because cricket I believe like for some of us was a sport he cherished.

I can recall even while in the intensive care unit as we visited with him he had his little radio waiting for the cricket to come. He had me searching and searching to find the right station. I believe he would have been smiling today to see West Indies going head to head with Australia.

When I was in Jamaica studying I met one of his College mates whose fond memory of Rev. Challenger was that he had the record for batting from start to finish and only scored one run. If he was alive to defend himself, He would respond by saying everyone was losing their wicket and he made up his mind that he would not get out. Someone had to hold the other end he would say. Sadly his innings in this life has come to an end but he has begun a new innings in the other life with his maker and the beauty about this innings it will last forever.

Rev. Challenger returned to Antigua in 1993 where he took up pastoral responsibility for Green bay and Five-

MORAVIAN CHURCH – UNITAS FRATRUM

Office of the Unity Business Administrator

The Members of the Unity BoardChristiansfeld den 19th of March 2012**Ref: Unity Board and short news**

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Greetings in the name of our Chief Elder, I trust you are all doing well. Today I take this opportunity to draw your attention to a few matters.



1. The next Unity Board meeting is planned to take place on 31st of October through 4th of November 2012 in Herrnhut, Germany. Arrival is on October 30th and departure is on November 5th.

- a. Travel: In order to exercise good stewardship, it is important that we start making flight bookings soon. There are two possibilities: The province or delegate makes the booking or the UBA office is asked to make the booking. In case your province or delegate makes the flight booking, please inform me about the price and route. In case it is the wish that the UBA makes the booking, please forward to here the full name as it appears on the passport and the most convenient airport of departure. For most international flights, the nearest airport is one of the Berlin airports. It is possible to continue by train. Nearest airport to Herrnhut is Dresden, but not many international flights go to Dresden. Further details on travel from airport to Herrnhut will be forwarded later.
- b. Some delegates will need a visa for Germany. If you need a letter of invitation in order to apply for the visa, please contact Br. Frieder Vollprecht, ECP to issue a letter of invitation. The e-mail address of Br. Vollprecht is frieder.vollprecht@bb.ebu.de
- c. We will within the next couple of months begin to make the draft agenda for the Unity Board Meeting in Herrnhut. All Provinces are invited to bring subjects, they may wish to have included in the agenda of the meeting.
2. Bishop's consecration: On March 4th 2012, Br. Jan Klas was consecrated Bishop of the Unity in Prague, Czech Republic. Consecrators were the bishops Br. Samuel Gray, Br. Petr Krasny and Br. Evald Rucky.
3. Since the beginning of January 2012 Unity Delegations have visited the following areas

and provinces:

- a. Alaska was visited by Sr. Betsy Miller and Br. Jørgen Bøytler, due to the fact that a group of members within the Unity Province of Alaska have expressed their desire to work independently from the province.
- b. Cuba: A Unity Delegation consisting of brothers Paul Gardner, Samuel Gray, David Guthrie and Jørgen Bøytler visited the Moravian Church in Cuba, Mission Area. The responsibility as supervising province was handed over from the Province of Jamaica to the American Southern Province, thus executing the decision of the Unity Executive Meeting 2011. The delegation was privileged to be informed about the work in Cuba and to meet with leaders and part of the church constituency. The work in Cuba includes about half a dozen places.
- c. Haiti: A Unity Delegation, including Brothers Paul Gardner, Samuel Gray, Chrismael Martial and Jørgen Bøytler visited the Haiti Mission work and was introduced to the work. A couple of congregations and programs for helping children, who have been orphaned by the disastrous January 2010 earthquake, were visited. The work in Haiti is under the supervision of the Jamaica Moravian Church and it is yet to be determined, whether the work in Haiti will be recognized as a Mission Area of the Unity.
- d. Peru: The American Board of World Mission supervises the Moravian Mission Area of Peru. Br. Samuel Gray and Br. Jørgen Bøytler visited the church in Peru and had discussions with the leaders about the work. There are no established Moravian congregations, rather the work consists of small cell groups, who are praying and sharing together. Also an outreach work to children living in a gang infested part of the capital Lima shows great potential.
- e. Belize: A Unity delegation consisting of Brothers Gray and Bøytler visited the Moravian Mission Area of Belize. The work is concentrated in the southern part of the country, in and around Punta Gorda. It includes a handful of preaching places and congregations. The work is supervised by the Honduras Moravian Church.

Sincerely yours

Rev. Dr. Jørgen Bøytler (PhD)
Unity Business Administrator

***Tribute Con't d from Page 7 Rev. Nigel Daniel
Superintendent, Antigua Conference***

Islands congregations. He served in that pastorate for 8 years. He served as superintendent for the period 1996-2003. Upon returning from study leave in 2004, he pastored Gracebay and Urlings congregations to the time of his demise. He would have given owe man to this conference over these 16 years. He would have left an ineradicable mark upon many lives and your support today is testimony of this. Truly we can say like the hymn writer who penned these words,

***Servant of God, well done!
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won,
Enter thy Master's joy.
4. Now toil and conflict o'er,
Go, take with saints thy place;
But go, as each has gone before,
A sinner saved by grace.
5. Soldier of Christ well done!
Praise be thy new employ;
And, while eternal ages run,
Rest in thy Saviours's joy.***

To Sis. Challenger, Shana, Christopher and family may you find comfort and peace in your heart which only the Almighty God can give. Our prayers are with you during this most difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



**TRIBUTE BY REV. HILTON JOSEPH, SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH
ST. KITTS CONFERENCE**

My family in Christ I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour and soon coming King.

The hymn writer Francis Von Alstyne declares:



*All the way my Saviour leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy,
Who through life has been my
guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in him to dwell!!
For I know whate'er befalls me,
Jesus doeth all things well.*

Bro Challenger worked in the St Kitts Conference of the Moravian Church in the 1970s – Estridge and Bethel to be exact – and because of his service the Conference is in a better position. Therefore I rise to offer condolences to you: Sis Debra, Christopher and Shanna on behalf of the leadership, our spouses and members of the Moravian Church, St Kitts. We continue to offer you up in prayer.

I also extend condolences on behalf of Rev Terrance Morison, Pastor of the Zion Baptist Church on East & Shirley Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

It was under Bro Challenger's pastoral leadership of the Five Island Moravian Church that I candidated for Ministry in 1995. I really appreciated his guidance over the years; he really kept me in check.

I would sum it up as how I think he would have said it: "Pig did ask his mother why she mouth so long; he mother say nah worry man, ah come you ah come."

Twelve years as an ordained minister and I do understand why 'Pig mouth so long'.

John on the Isles of Patmos declares in Rev 5:11-13:

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne, and the beasts, and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

Bro Challenger has joined the saints around the throne of God; let us too be faithful:

Be faithful to God
Be faithful to our calling
Be faithful to our families
Be thankful for small mercies

May the soul of our Bro Challenger rest in Eternal Peace.

Be blessed and covered my family.

**TRIBUTE ON BEHALF OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
THE MORAVIAN CHURCH VIRGIN ISLANDS CONFERENCE**

Read by Rev. Vankys Juan Isaac

The saints of God at Rome were encouraged by St Paul to "Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn." The Moravian Church VI Conference join all our brothers and sisters in the EWI who have been saddened by the passing of a fellow laborer but also uplifted by the thought that he has fought the good fight, has finished his course and has kept the faith.



Bro Challenger easily stood out as one of "Statesmen" among us. The combination of a tall stature, religious garb and solemn disposition made his impossible not to ignore his presence. Yet it was his compassionate heart and caring spirit, an apologist of the faith and a devoted laborer that will leave a lasting legacy in the Province.

On behalf of the Staff, active and retired, and all the members of the VI community I extend condolences to his wife Sis Deborah, his children Christopher and Shanna, all the family members and the Moravian community. I deeply regret that that I am unable to attend today as Bro Challenger has been an inspiration to me. Not only was he my Pastor when I candidated for ministry but he counseled Mikie and I and officiated at our wedding.

May His soul rest on in peace and light perpetual shine upon him.



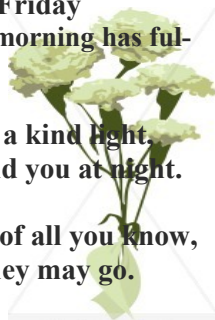
Easter by Paul Francis Mc Cann)

**Easter is always a time for revelation.
I wish you encouragement and inspiration.**

**May the emptiness of Good Friday
Be refilled by the promise that Easter morning has fulfilled.**

**May the joy of Easter morning be a kind light.
May the peace of Easter shine around you at night.**

**May this peace and joy fill the hearts of all you know,
Filling empty places wherever they may go.**



Unity Prayer Watch 2012

The EWI Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from 12:00 a.m. April 01, 2012 – Midnight April 14, 2012. The Schedule is as follows:

- ☐ Virgin Islands-12:00a.m. April 01–Midday April 04
- ☐ Barbados -12:00p.m. April 04–Midnight April 06
- ☐ Tobago - 12:00a.m. April 07 – Midday April 08
- ☐ Trinidad - 12:00p.m. April 08 – Midday April 09
- ☐ St. Kitts - 12:00p.m. April 09– Midnight April 10
- ☐ Antigua - 12:00a.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 began 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.



PEC MEETING

The PEC will convene its final meeting before the 30th Provincial Synod, from April 27th –29th, 2012 in St. Thomas. (Virgin Islands Conference)

Kindly remember the PEC in Prayer.



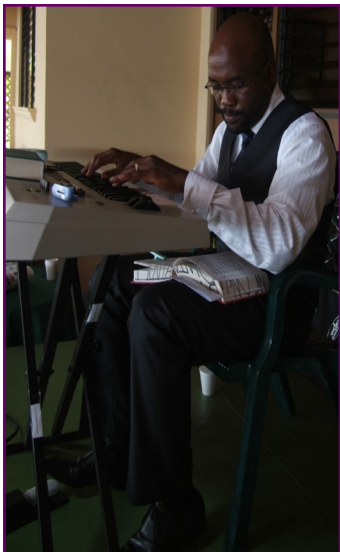
THE 30TH PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The 30th Provincial Synod convenes in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands on July 13, 2012 and will conclude on July 19, 2012.

The Hymn of the Month

Rev. Mikie Roberts,
Chair, Provincial Hymnal Committee

Over the next three months as we continue observing within the Province our hymn of the month, we will give attention to three (3) canticles. One dictionary defines a canticle as *“one of the non-metrical hymns or chants, chiefly from the Bible, used in church services.”* They are mainly drawn from the Psalms though in some cases the texts are non-Biblical but date back to early Christian worship. Not having a regular metre is the one feature that makes the chanting of canticles sometimes challenging as opposed to hymns which have a consistent metre with each verse. However, the canticles have always been a part of Christian worship and serves as a bridge connecting us to the Hebrew/Jewish heritage as expressed in the Psalms.



Mindful that the correct chanting of canticles can be a challenge to some of our congregations, we are reminded to carefully read the note on chanting that is given on pages **145 – 147** at the front of the hymnal we now use. Contained within those pages are some very important guidelines that need to be followed to aid in the correct execution of chanting the canticles.

The Provincial Hymnal Committee has not included all of the canticles for use in the new hymnal. A few have been removed. Of those that have been retained the following is being recommended to be used as the hymn of the month for the month of **April, 2012**.

Canticle #11 Salvator Mundi is the hymn of the month for **April**. The text for this canticle is not drawn from the Bible. However, it offers a compelling image of the saving works of Christ. The verses may be used as a response between cantor (lead soloist) and congregation doing the portions in italics. Similarly it can also be chanted antiphonally between sections of the congregation. These are some of the performance suggestions which will allow the congregation to have a better appreciation for the canticle and not become discouraged as they attempt to chant all of the verses. This is a single chant, meaning that when we sing through the entire tune, we would have completed one verse.

the first two Sundays of April are Palm and Easter Sunday respectively, some congregations may wish to introduce the canticle for April by the third Sunday. It is our intention to have a midi file of these canticles circulated by then so that congregations can hear them being performed. As a reminder, it is recommended that where feasible the canticles be introduced to the congregation first by the choirs and that thereafter they be used as often as possible during the designated month.

Let me again encourage all of our congregations to continue partnering with us as together we move ahead with the compilation of our Provincial Hymnal. The main purpose of having the hymn of the month is to bring to our attention aspects of our hymnal that are either unknown or underused. But this activity is also to keep in the forefront of your mind, the ongoing work of the Provincial Hymnal Committee. We continue to crave your prayers that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit as we endeavour to produce our own hymnal.



To our New Deputy Police Commissioner



Veteran police officer Ivor David has been appointed, with immediate effect. David, with over 36 years in the force, previously headed the St John's Police Station (District A). He also had postings at Dockyard and in the human resources department.

The new deputy Commissioner said he was called before the Police Service Commission on Monday, and by Tuesday, the appointment was official. "I am very happy for the opportunity, and I pledge to continue to build on the foundation that has been laid by those who preceded me," David said. "I also pledge to give my full support to the commissioner of police, Vere Browne."

David said it is too early to say whether he will be placed in charge of administration, as this remains the responsibility of the Commission to determine.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Ivor David is a member of the Cana Moravian Congregation in Swetes, Antigua.



Birthday Greetings for the month of April is extended to:

Bro. Elroy Christopher	04
Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	08
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. Rudolph and Sis. Esther Roberts 22



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



1. The Rev. Cherice Job-Lewis and Fabian Lewis, on the birth of their second child. **NIKAYLA JOANNE NOA LEWIS** was born at 9.59a.m on Friday March 02, 2012 in Trinidad. Nikayla at birth weighed 6lbs 5 oz. I am happy that both baby and mother

are healthy and doing well. Let us lift up the family in prayer.



2. The Rev. Nasel Ephraim who completed a "Master of Science Degree in Leadership" from Walden University in the U.S.A.

We pray God's richest blessings upon her.

Quote of the Day

◆ Always laugh when you can. It is cheap medicine.
Lord Byron
(1788—1824)



Fun Corner

Forest Gump and St. Peter

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My momma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.'"

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

1) Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?

2) How many seconds are in a year?

3) What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own." St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"



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- ♦ Seminars
- ♦ Weddings
- ♦ Banquet
- ♦ Dinner

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Conference Center & Apartments



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