

The Information

²⁸“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”²⁹“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Matthew 14: 28 - 30

January, 2014



Glancing back, and looking forward

As a Church, let us welcome 2014 with optimism and confidence. Our Provincial theme, “Fulfilling the Mandate” with its thematic focus, “Step out in faith” conjures up an attitude of confident trust, no matter what the circumstance. While we might still be confronted with the world-wide economic crisis, and various declines in society and culture, I appeal to you to wait with expectation for the Lord. God has seen us through the past year with all of its challenges and I verily believe that the God who championed our cause in the past, will do even more than we can ever asked or imagine for this New Year.



Our Church throughout the Province is pregnant with an abundance of youthful energy. The future looks bright with the abundance of young people whom God has positioned in the Church. Our young people

have been playing a tremendous role in the life of the Church. Let us not dampen their enthusiasm. Let us not put burdens upon them which are too heavy for them to carry and which burdens, we ourselves are not prepared to carry. Let us as Parents, Families, Elders, Stewards, Leaders, and the general membership of the Church, listen to the youth and communicate to them positive values of life and a desire to be of service.

The Eastern West Indies Province of the Moravian Church looks to young people with hope and confidence. I challenge us to encourage them to seek truth, to defend the common good, to be open to the world around them and willing to see ‘new things’ (Is. 42:9).”

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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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Dear brothers and sisters, as Children of God, we are a precious gift for our society. The Church wishes to offer you the most precious gift she has: the opportunity to raise your eyes to God and make a difference in the lives of others. The words of Jesus, speaks forcefully as to how we should conduct ourselves as Children of God:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16).

To allow our lights to shine for others to see Jesus requires faith and confidence. It requires risks. It requires that we stand on solid rock in Jesus. It requires a life style change. Many times we'll come to the edge of faith in our own lives. We're not sure where things are headed. Maybe it is a decision to start a relationship with Jesus for the first time. Maybe you need to trust him with a business decision or something related to a relationship. There is a risk in stepping out in faith. Who will you trust? Will you trust in the Lord with all your heart? What if you're wrong? Is it really God telling you to take the step of faith?

I challenge you in 2014 to take the risk and step out in faith. Trust God with everything you have. Do what God has told you to do in His Word. Then, when God challenges you with a risk of faith, you'll be more confident to do what God tells you to do.

I pray that you will find encouragement in these words as we begin a New Year. Step out in faith, and you will be amazed at the things God will accomplish through you and His Church.

Happy New Year to you and May God Bless you more than you can ever imagine!



Book of Order 2012

Copies of the New Book of Order are now available and can be purchased from the Provincial Headquarters for EC\$20.00 or US\$8.00 or BDS\$16.00 or TT\$48.00.

The Book of Order has been revised and updated with all the new resolutions from the 30th Provincial Synod held in St. Thomas in 2012.

"Places of Worship"

Mount Tabor Moravian Church featured on a Stamp in Barbados.

Deborah Small, writing on behalf of the Postmaster General in Barbados wrote "The Barbados Postal Service recently released a Stamp Issue featuring "Places of worship". One of the featured churches was the historic Mount Tabor Moravian Church".



MOUNT TABOR
MORAVIAN CHURCH 65C

The work of the Moravians among the enslaved population in the West Indies began in St. Thomas in 1732. The Moravians were the first missionaries to allow slaves in their congregation. The Moravians arrived in Barbados from Germany in 1765 with plans to christianise and educate the entire slave population. Sharon Moravian was the first Moravian Church to be built in Barbados. The second Moravian Church was built in St. John in 1825. Built on a prominence of rock, surrounded by mahogany trees, it was formerly called mount Chance, before being renamed Mount Tabor. The first missionary appointed to serve at Mount Tabor was Brother David Lichtenthaeler who died shortly after arriving in Barbados. Diaries of the time indicate that the Mission House and the Church were completely destroyed in the Hurricane of 1831. The church was rebuilt in 1832 and dedicated the same year.



PEC MEETINGS

The scheduled meetings for the PEC in 2014 are as follows:

Friday, January 31 – Saturday, February 01 in Antigua
Thursday, April, 24 – Saturday, April 26, in St. Kitts
Thursday, July 03 – Saturday, July 05, in Trinidad
Thursday, October, 02 – Saturday, October 04 in St. Thomas???

In addition, the Superintendents Conference for 2014 will take place in Antigua from Sunday, February 02 – Monday, February 03, 2014.

**Hymn of the Month
for January, 2014
Mikie Roberts (Rev.) Chair,
Provincial Hymnal Committee.**



As we welcome the dawn of another year, we give thanks to God for His faithfulness, mercy and grace to us over the past year. For the next three months the hymns will be taken from the portion of the hymnal that contains hymns that are primarily geared towards the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Though we usually observe this sacrament only once monthly, the theology of these hymns merits them being sung other than at a

Communion service. It is with that thought that we entrust these hymns to you with the hope that they will also be sung at times other than during Holy Communion.

The hymn of the month for January is, **Thou art coming, O my Saviour**. This hymn was written by Frances R. Havergal in 1873. In our current hymnal it is #546 and it is to be sung to the melody **BEVERLY**. In this hymn we are reminded of the fact that our Lord's eventual return and how wonderful his coming will be. But the hymn also brings to our attention that whenever we share at the Lord's table, we are in some way experiencing His coming through our communion with each other and with the Lord. However, this is but a foretaste of that day when at His coming he will reign forever and ever. Below is the text for this hymn that has been appointed for the month of January:

Thou art coming, O my Savior,
Thou art coming, O my King,
In Thy beauty all resplendent,
In Thy glory all transcendent;
Well may we rejoice and sing:
What an anthem that will be,
Music rapturously sweet,
Pouring out our love to thee
At Thine own all glorious feet.

Thou art coming; at Thy table
We are witnesses for this;
While remembering hearts Thou meetest
In communion clearest, sweetest,

Earnest of our coming bliss,
Showing not Thy death alone,
And Thy love exceeding great;
But Thy coming and Thy throne,
All for which we long and wait.

O the joy to see Thee reigning,
Thee, my own beloved Lord!
Every tongue Thy Name confessing,
Worship, honor, glory, blessing
Brought to Thee with glad accord;
Thee, my Master and my Friend,
Vindicated and enthroned;
Unto earth's remotest end
Glorified, adored, and owned!



Step out in Faith by Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis

The Provincial Theme for the Inter-synodal period 2013-2015 is "Fulfilling the Mandate." The Thematic focus for: 2013 was Submit to God's rule; 2014 "Step out in Faith!" and 2015 "Advance the Kingdom!"

The focus 2014 is for us to "Step out in Faith!" The emphasis should be on developing God's people, where we relinquish fear and focus on God. The foundation texts are Matthew 14:23-33 and Luke 5:1-11.

The first step in Fulfilling the Mandate is to Submit to God's Rule, where we Submit ourselves totally to God. There ought to be a complete transformation in our lives. Paul speaks in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Once our lives have been transformed, then we will have that boldness to Step out in Faith, ie, we relinquish fear and focus on God. One cannot Step out in Faith if his/her life has not been surrendered to Jesus. We must be able to stand on the Word and defend it. One Steps out in Faith when what he/she says and does, are in Alignment with God. The word of God in the Book of Hebrews says; "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

FAITH- such a small word, yet it seems to be one of the hardest concepts for humans to grasp.

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World Council of Churches

10th Assembly

30 October to 8 November 2013

Busan, Republic of Korea

Document No. **PIC 02.2**

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ADOPTED

Statement on the Human Rights of Stateless People

Nationality is a fundamental human right which is affirmed in article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is a foundation of identity, human dignity, and security. Nationality is an essential prerequisite to the enjoyment and protection of the full range of human rights.

Currently, there are more than 10 million people around the world who live without any nationality: they are stateless people. Most of these stateless people have not left their country of origin.

Statelessness can occur for a number of reasons. Some relate to technical aspects of nationality laws and procedures for acquisition of documents which prove nationality. More often, however, the cause is discrimination. Minorities are often arbitrarily excluded from citizenship due to discrimination on racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic grounds.

This kind of discrimination in the nationality law has rendered stateless more than 800,000 Rohingya, an ethnic Muslim minority living in Rakhine State, despite their ties to Myanmar that date back centuries. Over the past 30 years, the Rohingya have been subjected to widespread discrimination including the denial of citizenship, denial of freedom of movement and the right to marry. They have suffered forced labour and detention. As a result of discriminatory conditions inside the country, more than 200,000 Rohingya have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh, though fewer than 30,000 are officially recognized as refugees. Most unregistered Rohingya live in unofficial makeshift refugee settlements, where shelters are falling apart, and malnutrition is widespread. In spite of these conditions, aid agencies have sometimes been denied permission to assist unregistered refugees. Without residence or work permits, unregistered refugees live in fear of detention and forced repatriation to Myanmar. The lack of documentation also makes Rohingya women and girls particularly vulnerable to physical attacks, sexual violence and trafficking. Rohingya populations are also found in the Gulf countries and many have made the perilous sea journey to other countries in Asia – or have died trying.

The Bhutanese in Nepal – also called Lhotshampas – are another example of stateless people. These descendants of Nepalese migrants who settled in Southern Bhutan in the late 1890's were originally recruited by the Government of Bhutan to clear the jungles of southern states. In 1958, the Bhutanese government passed the Citizenship Act, which granted the Lhotshampas Bhutanese citizenship. However, in the 1980s, Bhutanese authorities adopted a series of policies known as “Bhutanisation”, aimed at unifying the country under the Buddhist Druk culture, religion, and language. After the 1988 census the Lhotshampas were re-classified as ‘illegal immigrants’ and the government established new requirements for citizenship that deprived many ethnic Nepalese of their nationality. By 1991, many tens of thousands had fled to India, with most going on to Nepal. Over half of the 110,000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal have now been resettled to third countries while the remainder continue to live in camps in wait of a solution.

In Côte D'Ivoire, hundreds of thousands of people descended from migrant workers brought to the country in colonial times have been denied Ivorian citizenship because they are deemed ‘foreigners’ and not eligible for nationality. This discriminatory treatment was a root cause of the continual conflict there. The government is now taking steps to resolve the situation of many of the people affected.

The 2004 Dominican government General Law on Migration put an end to the automatic right of Dominican nationality to be granted to Dominicans of Haitian descent. The law was applied retroactively, turning all children born of Haitian immigrant parents, who had arrived in the country 50 or 60 years back, stateless. Amendments to the constitution of the Dominican Republic in 2010 established new standards of citizenship along the same lines. Recently, on 23 September 2013, the constitutional court of the Dominican Republic has declared that the children of undocumented Haitian migrants in the country, even those who were born on Dominican soil decades ago, are no longer entitled to citizenship. This situation is now affecting the status of tens of thousands of people in the Dominican Republic who have never been part of any other nationality. This ruling denies Dominican nationality to anyone born after 1929 who does not have at least one parent of Dominican blood.

In addition to being often stigmatized and discriminated against, a great number of Roma people scattered in different European countries are stateless. Their lack of nationality, and therefore of identity documents and of administrative existence, hinders their access to basic human rights such as education and health services, registration of birth or marriage, etc., and increases their vul-

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***Statement on the Human Rights
of Stateless People
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nerability to continued marginalization.

With regard to the Russian-speaking population in Latvia, although a Russian minority existed on the territory before Soviet times, approximately half a million former Soviet citizens who found themselves on Latvian territory were rendered stateless by being deemed “non-citizens” by Latvia’s 1994 citizenship law.

Statelessness can also arise when citizenship laws do not treat women and men equally. Over 25 countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Middle East continue to prevent mothers from passing their nationality on to their children on an equal basis as fathers. Where fathers are stateless, absent, or unable to confer their nationality to their children, these children are left stateless.

State succession is also a cause of widespread statelessness where individuals fail to secure citizenship in successor states. For example, when the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia broke up, large numbers of people throughout Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Balkans became stateless. Migrants and marginalised ethnic and social groups were most affected.

Stateless people are present in every region of the world. Many migrants become stateless after they have left their countries and find themselves stranded – without nationality – through no fault of their own. Several thousand people from Myanmar, the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and many other places are stateless in the United States. The fact that they are stateless and thus unable to travel to and reside legally in another state does not give rise to protection under U.S. immigration law. It is therefore almost impossible for people without nationality to obtain residency or citizenship in the United States unless they are recognized as refugees. Many end up in immigration detention where they can remain for prolonged periods – even though there is no hope of them travelling to any other country.

Similar hardships caused by statelessness are faced by a range of populations around the world, including children of Haitian descent in the Caribbean, or people known as “bidoon” who did not acquire nationality when Kuwait achieved independence. This being said, some countries, such as Zimbabwe, have made efforts and have tried to address the issue of statelessness through legislation change.

Stateless people live in a situation of legal limbo. Without protection from any state, stateless people are often

exploited and – particularly women and children – may be more vulnerable to smuggling, harassment, and violence.

Since they are not recognized and registered as citizens of any country, stateless people are also denied concomitant rights such as the right to reside legally, to register the birth of a child, to receive education and medical care and to access formal employment and housing. Stateless people are also often not allowed to own property, to open a bank account, or to get married legally. Stateless people face constant travel restrictions as well as social exclusion. Due to the lack of citizenship in any country,

our stateless sisters and brothers face numerous daily hardships – needless separation from their families, and fundamental uncertainty about what their lives might hold or the ability to pursue their hopes and ambitions.

As a result, not only are stateless persons denied their rights and faced with living in limbo, but their situation is rarely recognized by mainstream society. The feeling of being invisible leads to a debilitating sense of desperation. As a result of their plight, many stateless persons are forced to cross international borders and become refugees.

Because states have the sovereign right to determine the procedures and conditions for acquisition and loss of citizenship, statelessness and disputed nationality can ultimately only be resolved by governments. State determinations on citizenship must, however, conform to general principles of international law enshrined in the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and human rights treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child which set out basic rights such as the right of every child to acquire a nationality and the principle of non-discrimination. The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons establishes standards of protection for stateless persons. Together, these treaties establish the international framework for the protection of stateless people and for the prevention and reduction of statelessness.

The church’s engagement with human rights has a long theological tradition. The underlying theological assumption of active concern for those who are suffering is the belief that all people created by God constitute an inextricable unity. Solidarity and compassion are virtues that all Christians are called to practice, regardless of their possessions, as signs of their Christian discipleship. Compassion and care for one another and acknowledging the image of God in all humanity is at the core of our Christian identity and an expression of Christian discipleship. Humanitarian conduct is an essential part of the Gospel. We are instructed in Micah 6:8 to “do justice.” And the commandment of love, the greatest commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ, is to love God and to love one another.

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**Statement on the Human Rights
of Stateless People
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The word of God cautions the Hebrew people: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Ex. 22:21). Jesus through the Nazareth Manifesto in Luke 4:18-19 also gives expression to God's reign of justice, liberation, and well-being of all. His parable of the judgment of sheep and goats also draws pointed attention to being in solidarity with people who are discriminated, marginalized and suffering (which would include stateless people and minority groups): "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." (Matt. 25:35-36).

These biblical and theological bases motivate us as churches and Christian bodies to express our Christian commitment and to be engaged in our prophetic witness to speak for the rights of those who are voiceless and marginalized as stateless people. The Christian family, therefore, ought to take up the plight of stateless persons as this struggle reflects our cardinal universal principles and values: that a human being has the right to life, liberty and security; the right to education, equal protection under the law, and to be free from slavery and torture; the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and to freedom of opinion and expression; and the right to a nationality. Stateless persons are denied all of these rights and are unrecognized by any nation.

Expressing deep concern on the plight of stateless people around the world, the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 30 October to 8 November 2013, therefore:

- A. Affirms** that the right to life, security and basic human rights are fundamental universal principles and values that every human being is entitled to;
- B. Recognizes** that the denial of nationality is a major violation of human rights which affects people in every region;
- C. Encourages** churches to raise awareness of the situation of stateless people living in their countries and around the world and to advocate for the protection of their human rights;
- D. Calls** on churches to engage in dialogue with states to adopt policies which confer nationality and provide proper documentation to stateless people;

E. Acknowledges positive changes in nationality laws made by some governments, and encourages other states to take similar actions;

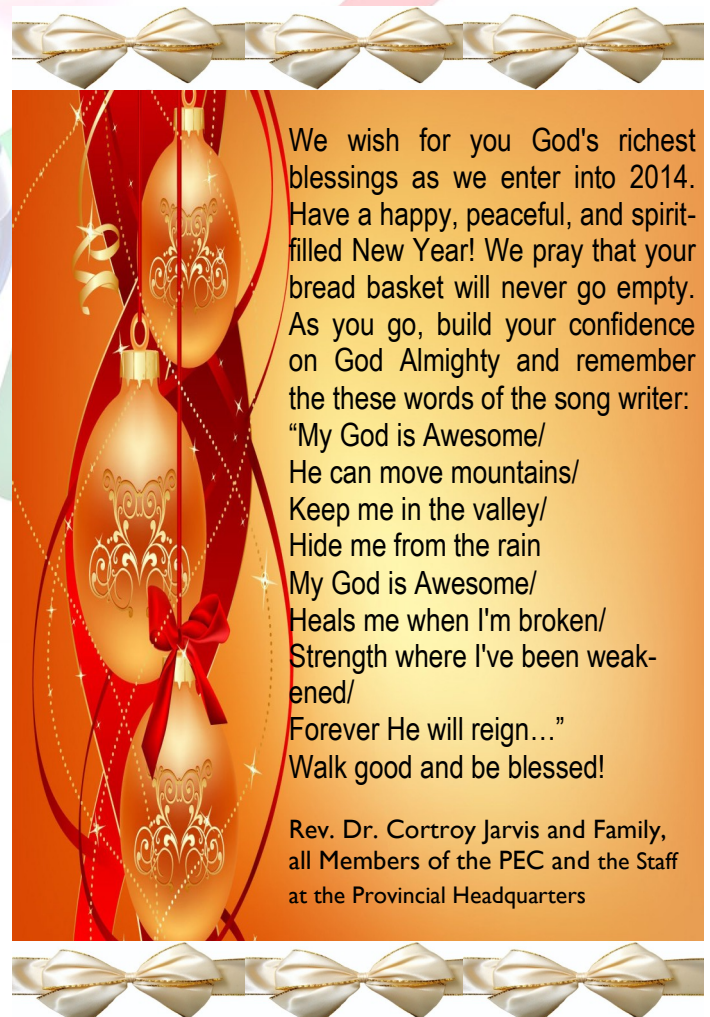
F. Urges churches, civil society, human rights entities as well as United Nations agencies and regional organisations to collaborate in order to properly and effectively reduce and eradicate statelessness;

G. Prays for stateless people around the world, so that their voices are heard and their plight understood; and

H. Requests the WCC to take up the issue of stateless people as one of its programmatic priorities until the forthcoming WCC 11th Assembly.

APPROVED by consensus

New Year



Step out in Faith Cont'd from Page 3

For example: We cannot see the wind, yet we believe (have faith) that it is there. Why is this true? It is true, because even though we cannot see the wind, we can feel it when it blows. If I am standing outside and a breeze comes through, I can feel the wind on my face and know that the wind is blowing. If I am standing outside and the wind begins to blow, the trees begin to sway, and the sky grows dark, I cannot see the storm coming, but I trust the evidence that I feel, and I seek shelter.

I believe that the same is true with our faith in God. We cannot see God, but when He moves we can feel it. Sometimes God comes to us in a still small voice, and sometimes He comes to us in a mighty, powerful way! Either way, if we will step out in faith and listen for His call, He will guide us in the direction we need to go. One of my favorite people to read about in the Bible is a man named Elijah. Elijah was a prophet of God. He had seen God work many, many times in his life. He had seen God work miracle after miracle:

1. Elijah is fed by a Widow (1kings 17:9-16)
2. Elijah heals a child (1 Kings 17: 17-24)
3. Elijah calls fire from Heaven (1 kings 18: 19-39)

Even after all of these miracles by God, Elijah finds himself in a scary place. There is an evil woman named Jezebel who, hearing that Elijah has had all the prophets of Baal put to death, she sends word that she plans to have Elijah killed. (1 Kings 19:1-2). For fear of his life, Elijah runs and hides. He goes so far as to ask God to just go ahead and let him die right there. God, of course, being the great God He is, does not let him die. Instead, God provides food for him.

Elijah then travels until he comes to a cave where he decides to hide. You see, Elijah is discouraged and ready to give up, but God is not done with him yet.

God comes to Elijah while he is in the cave and asks him why he is hiding there. One can almost hear Elijah as he tells God all of his troubles and complains about how bad things are.

What happens next is one of the most interesting portions of scripture that challenges the believer to Step Out In

Faith. God tells Elijah to get up and go stand on the mountain. When Elijah does, God shows Himself to Elijah, but not in the way you would think. We read in I Kings 19: 11-12:

“And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.”

Elijah had the faith to do what God had said, and God came to Elijah, in a still small voice. It was then that Elijah realized that God was not finished with him. You see, God had great things planned for Elijah, but he could not do those things as long as he was afraid, fearful and hiding in a cave. Elijah had to step out in faith and listen for the voice of God. When Elijah stepped out in faith, God revealed Himself to him and then was able to use Elijah to do even more great and mighty things.

I do not know what kind of trials you are facing today. I do not know if you have a “Jezebel” chasing after you, but I can promise you this: God has not left you. He has not forgotten about you. God has great plans for your life. You have to be willing to step out in faith first though, just as Elijah did. **You will never accomplish what you do not have the faith and courage to attempt.**

I want to encourage you today. If you are facing hard choices, if you are wondering where God is leading, or if you are tired and ready to give up, step out on the mountain in faith! Seek God and His will for your life, and then be ready to move when He tells you to move. God’s word tells us: ***“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”*** Hebrews 12:1.

I believe that the same is true with our faith in God. We cannot see God, but when He moves we can feel it. Sometimes God comes to us in a still small voice, and sometimes He comes to us in a mighty, powerful way! Either way, if we will step out in faith and listen for His call, He will guide us in the direction we need.

Faith always means risk. Everything in life is a risk. Ecclesiastes 10:8-9 says:

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New Year's Financial Resolutions

Submitted by Sister Elisa G. Hodge, M.B.A.,
Treasurer of P.E.C.



As we reflect on 2013 and look forward to the New Year 2014, it is the perfect opportunity for us as individuals, congregations, conferences and a province to give God thanks for his financial blessings during the past year. It is also a great opportunity to review our financial status and consider some goals and strategies to achieve greater financial success and stability. An important step in getting control of your finances is to create a budget and strive diligently to stick to it. Like many congregations and conferences, the EWI Province has prepared, approved and distributed its 2014 Operating Budget. We have also issued our 2012 Audited Financial statements as required by the EWIP of the Moravian Church Book of Order 2012. Like the EWI Province, congregations and conferences should be preparing their 2013 year-end financial statements and financial records for an annual audit as required by the Book of Order 2012.

As we continually review our finances to ensure that our financial and other statutory obligations are met, we prayerfully encourage you, ourselves as the PEC, congregations and conferences to resolve to make the necessary changes for greater financial sustainability in 2014.

According to a New Year Financial Resolutions Study, more than 50% of Americans make resolutions of which 54% relate to finances. In fact, a survey conducted for three years in a row, shows that the top three financial resolutions are as follows:

- 1) Saving More (54%) [See May 2013 Newsletter for Tips on Learning How to Save]
- 2) Paying Off Debts (24%)
- 3) Spending Less (19%)

Whether your financial resolution is to tithe, save more, pay off debts, or spend less, etc., the key to achieving your resolutions in 2014 is to be sure you formulate strong resolutions. In doing so, word your resolutions positively. Instead of something like "I will stop wasting my money", consider "I am going to

spend money on things that I really value or need." It is easy to become over ambitious and try to pursue a complete overhaul of your life or finances; however, if you try to do too much, you will spread yourself too thin and make success less likely.

So, if you, like me, would like to really make meaningful changes in 2014, focus on one to three things so that you can dedicate the time and effort necessary to accomplish your goals. To achieve your goal, you have to think **SMART** (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timing). Here are some points to consider in formulating a strong, but realistic resolution (goal) that you will be more likely to achieve.

- 1) **Make your goal specific and not general.** For example, instead of stating, "I am going to be healthier", say, "I am going to walk one hour, two days of the week or I am going to eat two portions of fruits two days of the week."
- 2) **Make your goal measurable.** If your resolution or goal is to pay-off your credit card debt of \$5,000.00, break the payments into installments of \$500. As you pay-off the amounts, it will motivate you as you get closer to your goal.
- 3) **Make your goal attainable.** If your goal is out of reach or near impossible, it will be demotivating. So, make your goal realistic.
- 4) **Choose relevant goals.** Goals should be something that means something to you. If it is something that you think you should do, but don't care much about, it is less likely to achieve it.
- 5) **Make your goal time bound.** When setting a goal, it is important to have a deadline.

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New Year's Financial Resolutions

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In our example of paying off the \$5,000.00 credit card debt, state, "I will pay off the \$5,000.00 credit card debt by October 2014". Doing so will enable you to know what you are aiming to achieve and when.

Once you have set your resolutions and/or goals, it is important to follow up periodically so that you know how you are doing in achieving your goals. Remember to do the following:

- 1) **Check in Regularly.** So that you do not lose sight of your goal, check in on the status of your goal at least once a month, perhaps when you pay your bills.
- 2) **Remind Yourself of Your Motivation.** Once you have identified and documented your goals, be sure to indicate your reasons for your goals. Print your goals out and put them where you can see them to remind you why the goal is important to you.
- 3) **Don't Give in to Downward Spirals, that, is Don't Give Up!** If you stray or get off course with your goals, don't dwell on your mistakes or be too hard on yourself. It will only serve to make you feel worse and serve as a demotivator. If you slip or make a mistake, get right back on track as soon as possible and remember to tell yourself, **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"**.

I pray that God's grace will be with you as you embark on achieving your resolutions. Have a blessed and prosperous 2014!

If God only used perfect people, nothing would get done. God will use anybody if you're available.

[Rick Warren](#)

Step out in Faith
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"Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.
"Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them; whoever splits logs may be endangered by them"
(NIV).

There's nothing we can do that doesn't have some element of risk in it.

But the greatest risk of all is how we relate to other people and how we relate to God – the risk to do something about those relationships. Mark 12:30 says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (NIV). You take a risk when you love with all your heart.

I am reminded of a movie with *Indiana Jones*, where Indiana Jones came to the edge of a cliff. He was challenged to step out over the cliff even though he couldn't see a bridge beforehand. It is not a bad picture of genuine faith. Faith is stepping out and doing what God has asked you to do when you can't see what will happen in the end. You don't know exactly what God's going to do in the end, but you know he's asking you to step out in faith.

Many times we'll come to the edge of faith in our own lives. We're not sure where things are headed. Maybe it is a decision to start a relationship with Jesus for the first time. Maybe you need to trust him with a business decision or something related to a relationship. There is a risk in stepping out in faith. Who will you trust? Will you trust in the Lord with all your heart? What if you're wrong? Is it really God telling you to take the step of faith?

I challenge you in 2014 to take the risk and step out in faith. Trust God with everything you have. Do what God has told you to do in His Word. Then, when God challenges you with a risk of faith, you'll be more confident to do what God tells you to do.

I pray you find encouragement in these words as we begin a New Year. I pray that you will remember the story of Elijah, and how God used him in great and mighty ways. Step out in faith, and you will be amazed at the things God will accomplish through you and His Church.



Birthday Greetings for the month of January is extended to:

Sis. Margaret John	04
Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	05
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Bro. George Ramsay	27
Bro. Ray Joseph	27
Sis. Andrea Smith	29



Anniversary Greetings for the month of January is extended to:

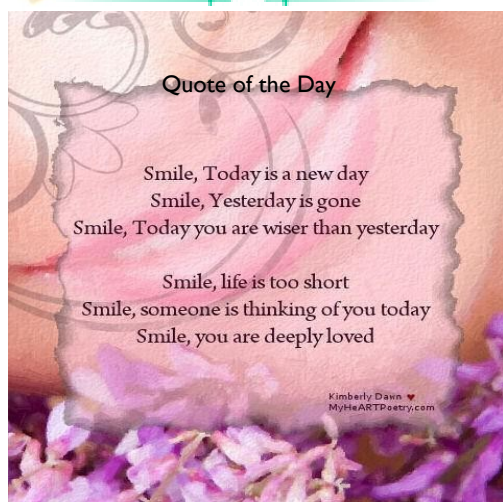
Bro. Nevin & Sis. Billie Sterling Lewis 05



Congratulations!

The Eastern West Indies Province rejoices with Danielle Jarvis on her accomplishment as she graduates from University.

Danielle graduated from Midwestern State University, in Wichita Falls, Texas on Saturday December 14, 2013, with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance (cum laude). Danielle is the daughter of the Rev. Dr. Cortroy and Mrs. Althea P. Jarvis.



Filling the Void

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help this year, remember -- we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.



Faithful with Much

At a Wednesday evening church meeting a very wealthy man rose to give his testimony.

"I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I can still remember the turning point in my faith, like it was yesterday:

I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

As he finished it was clear that everyone had been moved by this man's story. But, as he took his seat, a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said: "Wonderful story! I dare you to do it again!"



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Fulfilling the Mandate - Step out in Faith