A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PEC - EWI

The Information

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:2

June, 2015



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis Chairman of PEC

Why is the Trinity important to advance the Kingdom?

On Trinity Sunday many Christians remember and honor the belief of an eternal God, consisting of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Many churches have special prayers on Trinity Sunday. The Athanasian Creed, named after St Athanasius, Archbishop of Alexandria, is recited in some churches on Trinity Sunday because of its strong affirmation of the Triune nature of God. Today May 31, 2015 is Trinity Sunday.

History records that it was Pope Gregory IX instituted Trinity Sunday in 828 AD. This day is notable for being the only major Christian festival that celebrates a doctrine of the church rather than an event in its sacred history. It is dedicated to the Christian belief in the Trinity that is: Father, Son and Holy Spirit and falls on the Sunday following Pentecost each year. The belief of one God in three elements is a distinctive of the Christian faith but the early church was plagued by contrary, controversial and heretical views. Trinity Sunday spread throughout the western church somewhere around the 14th century.

In some churches, the liturgical color is white on Trinity Sunday. Images of the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit depict that there are three elements of one God. The Trinity is sometimes symbolized by a triangular shape formed by three overlapping oval rings or loops, each featuring one of the following images: the crown (father) within the top loop; the lamb (son) within the second loop (clockwise); and the dove (spirit) within the third loop (clockwise).

The Trinity is one of the most fascinating and controversial Christian doctrines. It is the belief that God is one in **essence** (Greek "ousia"), but distinct in **person** (Greek "hypostasis"). Don't let the word "person" fool you. The Greek word for person means "that which stands on its own," or "individual reality," and does not mean the persons of the Trinity are three human persons.

Therefore we believe that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are somehow distinct from one another (not divided though), yet completely united in will and essence. How can this be? Well, think of the Trinity as a musical chord. It is said that the C-chord includes the C, E, and G notes, which are all distinct notes, but joined together as one chord, the sound is richer and more dynamic than had the notes been played individually.

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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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Fulfilling the Mandate - Advance the Kingdom

Why is the Trinity important to advance the Kingdom? Cont'd from Page 1

The chords are all equally important in producing the rich sound, and the sound is lacking and thin if one of the notes is left out.

The Son is said to be eternally *begotten* of the Father, while the Holy Spirit is said to *proceed* from the Father through the Son. Each member of the Trinity interpenetrates or intertwines with one another, and each has distinct roles in creation and redemption, which is called the Divine economy. For instance, God the Father created the world through the Son and the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters at creation.

The Nicene definition of the Trinity developed over time, was based on Scripture and Tradition. *Tradition can be seen as the living faith of the dead*. The Scriptures call the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit "God," yet the three are also clearly distinct. For instance, St. John gives Jesus the titles *theos* and *monogenes theos* (God and Only-Begotten God) and has Jesus saying that the Father and Son are one, yet in his gospel Jesus also states that the Father and Son are not one witness, but two (John 1:1, 18; 8:17-18; 10:30).

Jesus is one with the Father, but they constitute two witnesses? It is scriptures such as these that led to the development of the Trinity doctrine. The Church had to reconcile the Divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit with Jewish monotheism, that is, the belief in the existence of one God or in the oneness of God. Over time, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, the Church reflected on the implications of God's nature, and even began using the word Trinity by the middle of the 2nd century to describe the relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Trouble struck in the 4th century when a presbyter named Arius denied the Father and Son was both true God and coeternal. His bishop Alexander of Alexandria challenged him and deposed him. Eventually the Arian controversy spread, and the emperor Constantine, newly fascinated with Christianity, convened a council of bishops in AD 325 in Nicaea to deal with Arianism. It is there that the Church drew up the beginnings of the current Nicene Creed. In the latter half of the 4th century the Church dealt with those who specifically denied the divinity of the Holy Spirit, adding more text to the creed.

The Trinity is vitally important to the Christian Faith. Without it the Christian Faith falls flat to the ground. God's only Son, Jesus, was sent into this world "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17). The Holy Spirit testifies that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah and Savior.

When we interpret this passage, we should recognize that each member of the Trinity is God. All three speak with *authority* because God, the Creator of everything is our ultimate authority; is everywhere, and that is the major reason why the Holy Spirit can testify of Jesus:

"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even, the deep things of God". (1 Corinthians 2:10).

If the Holy Spirit is not God, then we cannot completely trust the truths to which He guides us, such as Jesus being the Messiah. God has given us this truth through His Word, and the Trinity is important simply because the doctrine is revealed in Scripture. Also, the doctrine of the Trinity goes hand in hand with the doctrine of salvation (e.g., the many things that Jesus said and did have no meaning if He is not God). Even though the word "Trinity" is not found in Scripture, the doctrine is clearly presented.

The doctrine of the Trinity is important because it helps to describe the nature of God. Indeed, it is crucial because it reveals what and who God is (one God in three persons), and this insight allows Christians, to view the inner working of God's nature and personhood.

In addition, the doctrine brings together in a coherent manner the great truths about God's redemptive actions. For example, the Father (the first person of the trinity) sends the Son into the world to offer propitiatory sacrifice on the cross; that is, a sacrifice that both appeases the Father's just wrath against sin and extends the Father's love and mercy by allowing repentant sinners to escape judgement. The Son (the second person of the trinity) is able to provide atonement because he is both God and man. In other words, the God-Man conquers death, sin and hell through his glorious resurrection from the dead. The Holy Spirit (the third person of the trinity) is directly responsible for the repentant sinner's new birth through regeneration and sanctification.

The three members of the Trinity make the entire plan of redemption possible. It is important therefore for all God's children to understand the Trinity so that they are able to articulate it in such a way as to usher others into the Kingdom.

Cloud of Witnessess by Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton Roberts

Rev. Edward Thomas Sr. 1905 - 1997

This monthly feature is to re-tell the stories of ordained Pastors who served in the Eastern West Indies Province in recent past. It is intended to inform us of the life and witness of these ministers and their spouses so that we can better appreciate the sacrifices they have made. Moreover, it is hoped that both the ordained and un-ordained will be inspired to continue our ministry diligently knowing that our labour will never be in vain in the Lord.

The following biography of was submitted by his Son Edward Thomas Jr.

Edward Nathaniel Thomas, affectionately known as "Mr. Tanny" or "Brother Thomas" was born to Jacob Thomas and Maria Williams on November 30, 1905 on the island of St. Thomas. He was educated in the public school system and recognized by all who taught him for his academic ability. Unable to continue his education because of his family's economic situation, he pursued the art of tailoring under the apprenticeship of Mr. Audain's Tailoring Shop. He worked as a civilian employee for the U. S. Navy in St. Thomas rising through the ranks to become the assistant paymaster until the submarine base closed after World War II. He then continued his career as a tailor spending many years until retirement at the Elverhoj Dress Shop on Main Street. We always remembered with great pride how in the early years of the St. Thomas Carnival, he made annually all of the costumes for the large Higgins Gate troupe.

On October 16, 1941, he married Jennie B. Rabsatt, a native of Long Look, Tortola. This union produced two children, Joyce J. Thomas-Heyliger and Edward E. Thomas, Jr. He also was the father of Edna Thomas, a current resident of Englewood, New Jersey, by an earlier relationship. His wife was instrumental in bringing him into the Church and later on as he had a personal encounter with his Lord and Savior.

Brother Thomas' love for Jesus Christ was reflected by his full surrender to service in every aspect of the work of the Moravian Church in general and the Memorial congregation in particular, which became his home away from home. He was a member of the King's Daughters and Sons Society, The Men's Fellowship, several prayer groups and also served as Sunday School Superintendent for several years. After serving as a Lay Preacher for numerous years, he was favored with ordination as a Minister of the Gospel. He considered this selection to be the high point of his Christian calling. Such as Reverend Thomas' devotion to his Lord and the Memorial Church that he resided on the church grounds for many years after becoming a widower.

On Thursday, September, 1997, at the age of 92, he was called home to join the "great cloud of witnesses".

Summoning the demons: Playing 'Charlie Charlie' game poses real danger, warns Vatican exorcist

There is a dangerous game called "Charlie Charlie" which has spread like wild fire across the Schools in Antigua and which has started to affect students in schools.

It is a Demonic game which was picked up on social media. I now share with you what I have gained from an article written by Monica Cantilero.

A Vatican-approved exorcist has warned against the dangers of playing the game known as "Charlie, Charlie," which is gaining popularity among young people on social media.



Spanish priest Jose Antonio Fortea said the so-called Charlie Charlie Challenge, a game played on a simplified version of the Ouija board, poses a real danger as it involves the summoning of spirits, the Catholic News Agency reported on Wednesday.

The game uses two pens and a paper to create a makeshift version of the Ouija board. A grid is drawn on paper to make four panels, two of which are labelled "yes" and the other two "no." The pens are then put on top of another, positioned like a cross.

The players invoke a Mexican demon by calling out "Charlie, Charlie can we play" or "Charlie, Charlie are you here?" Then they wait for the pen to move as they film the game for online posting.

Father Fortea warned that the game involves the real, occult practice of "calling on spirits," cautioning people that "some spirits who are at the root of that practice will harass some of those who play the game."

Even though players "won't be possessed," the spirit that has been summoned "will stay around for a while."

Also, the game "will result in other spirits beginning to enter into even more frequent communication."

"And so then the person really can suffer much worse consequences from the demons," Father Fortea said.

Another priest, Fr Stephen McCarthy, warned students at the Saints John Neumann and Maria Goretti Catholic High School in Philadelphia against playing the game, *The Independent* reported on Tuesday.

"There is a dangerous game going around on social me-

dia which openly encourages impressionable young people to summon demons," Father McCarthy said in an open letter.

"I want to remind you all there is no such thing as 'innocently playing with demons.""

"Please be sure to NOT participate and encourage others to avoid participation as well."

"The problem with opening yourself up to demonic activity is that it opens a window of possibilities which is not easily closed," he said.

The origin of the fad remains unclear. Time suggested that versions of the game can be traced to 2008. A You-Tube video, "Jugando Charly Charlie," was posted in June last year but the game, which uses pencils, is a little different.

Twitter user @_kluh was one of the first who adopted the hashtag #Charlie Charlie Challenge, which was used by over two million people, wrote the BBC on Monday.

Occult activity and the need for exorcisms has increased to a critical level globally, with the spokesperson for the International Association of Exorcists saying the number of bishops and cardinals asking to be part of their annual conference due to rising demonic activity has been going up.

"It's becoming a pastoral emergency," Cascioli told Catholic News Agency. "At the moment the number of disturbances of extraordinary demonic activity is on the rise."

The increase in demonic activity can be linked to dwindling faith among people and a growing interest and participation in occult activities like Ouija boards and seances, said Cascioli

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Hymn of the Month for June, 2015 by Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts Director, Provincial Hymnal Committee.



As we come mid-year to the month of June, I invite us to shift our focus to the many children and youth within our congregations. This time of the year some are already on summer vacation, at least those who are at the tertiary level of their education. There are others who having completed their '11 Plus' or 'Common Entrance' exams to secondary

schools are anxiously awaiting the results. Then of course, we also have many who are now working towards preparing for their end of term promotion exams.

So as we keep our children in prayer our hymn of the month for June is specifically directed towards them. It is "We are young people, we are followers of the Lamb" the words and music of which were written by the Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis. The arrangement of this hymn was done by Rev. Dr. Patmore Smith. Realizing that the word of God warns that life and death are in the power of the tongue, it is fitting that in this hymn, our youth are offered life-giving words through which they Rev. Denise Smith Lewis make several declarations. What might these be? They are servants and followers of Christ; they are holy in their life styles; they are empowered by the Holy Spirit that dwells in them. But beyond declaring who they are, in this hymn they are also committing themselves to what they will do for 'the Lamb.' The central message of this hymn is that it summons the youth of our congregations to rise up and to be strong in the Lord as they faithfully serve Christ in proclaiming the Gospel to the nations.

God knows that now more than ever we need a generation of youth who are dedicated to fulfilling the mandate of Christ to be disciples and to make disciples. So might we offer this hymn to them during this month of June with the hope that all of us, not just our youth, will be firm in our resolve that as 'followers of the Lamb' we will be obedient to God's call in our lives. Below are the words and music of this hymn:

We are young people we are followers of the Lamb We will serve Him with heart and strength and mind we can. God is faithful,

He will give the strength to do. Give Him worship! Glory honour praises due. So rise up young people, stand up strong, we cannot faint.

We will worship King Jesus!

Bless His name! We are His saints—

He will ever equip us for the work we have to do.

God is faithful

He will make us faithful too.

We are young people consecrated to the Lamb; We'll live holy, we know in our hearts we can.

God has called us,

His own gospel to proclaim.

Bringing nations to praise and glorify thy name.

We are young people we're empowered by the Lamb;
God dwells in us, building up our spirit man.
Going forward,
To declare that Jesus reigns.
Build His kingdom working till He comes again

Build His kingdom working till He comes again Denise Smith-Lewis

Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis.

We Are Young People



Ordination

The Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) has requested the Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis, Bishop, to Ordain as Deacons, the following persons:

Sis. Yvanne Jean, presently serving as Pastor of the Gracebay and Urlings Congregations in the Antigua Conference;

Bro. Moise Jean, presently serving as Pastor of the Cedar Hall and Cashew Hill Congregations in the Antigua Conference and;





Bro. Erwin Warner, presently serving as Pastor of the Bethesda and New Dawn Congregations in the St. Kitts Conference.

The Ordination Service will be held on Saturday July 11, 2015, during the 31st Provincial Synod. The Service will begin at 6.00 pm at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church.

We request the prayers of the entire Church for our Sister and Brothers as they prepare to take their Ordination vows. All are invited to attend.



Earthquake Disaster In Nepal Appeal

For several days, the earth quake disaster in Nepal has been breaking news. At this point in time, more than 5000 people are reported dead, and more than 10.000 injured.

There is a Moravian presence in Nepal, which is part of the South Asia Moravian Mission Area, supervised by the Moravian Church British Province. Two brief reports from the British Mission Board were received.

The British Mission Board has established a fundraising campaign within the British Province in order to assist the people of Nepal through our Moravian brothers and sisters.

As we are one church, one body, I hereby take the opportunity to share the information with the Eastern West Indies Province

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The PEC offers congratulations to Rev. Dr. Jeremy Francis who graduated from the Theological School of Drew University with a Doctor of Ministry Degree on Saturday May 16, 2015.

His Thesis was entitled" Becoming Christ Letter: Preaching life's Experiences at Estridge Moravian Church, St. Kitts" with a concentration in Worship, Preaching and Spirituality.



600^{th} Anniversary of the Martyrdom of John Hus

July 06, 2015 will mark the 600th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of John Hus. In keeping with the historical significance of this celebration which will be observed throughout the Moravian Unity, the PEC proposes that the EWI Province participate in celebrating the legacy and memory of John Hus.

The PEC proposes the following:

Date of celebration Sunday July 05, 2015
Proposed theme Courage to Stand
Celebration format -Conference Combined Worship Service
Worship and Music Resources:

- ► 600th Anniversary Hymn
- ► Introit and anthem
- Special Anniversary Litany and suggested hymns
- ► A short (10 minutes) dramatic presentation by the youth

The resources were made available to the respective conferences.

The PEC proposes that the celebrations in Antigua be varied due to the 31st Provincial Synod. The Opening Service of Synod will be held on the morning of Sunday July 12, 2015, and emphasis will be placed on the John Hus Anniversary during the service.

On July 05, 2015, the congregations in the Antigua conference, as they celebrate Holy Communion, should place some emphasis on the John Hus Anniversary.

THE 31st PROVINCIAL SYNOD

The 31st Provincial Synod will be held in Antigua from July 10-16, 2015 at the Jolly Beach Resort and Spa.

We are just about 42 days away from the beginning of the 31st Provincial Synod, to be held in Antigua from July 10 – 16, 2015.

Members of our Church and the General Public can participate in the 3 Public Worship Services and 1 programme. The services will be held on:

- Saturday July 11 @ 6p.m. Ordination Service Spring Gardens Moravian Church
- Sunday July 12 @ 9a.m. Opening Service of Synod Spring Gardens Moravian Church
- Sunday July 12 @ 7p.m. Synod Programme Spring Gardens Moravian Church

Wednesday July 15 @ 7p.m - Synod Holy Communion Service - Cedar Hall Moravian Church

These services will be carried live on the Internet. You will be informed shortly of the exact website where persons will be able to connect to hear and view the services.

The PEC has also requested your prayers for the election of another Bishop.



Staffing Assignments

The PEC makes the following announcements:

- 1. The Rev. Winston Jones, Pastor of the Bethlehem Moravian congregation in Barbados, has accepted call to serve as Pastor of the Trinity Moravian Church in Kingston Jamaica, with effect from August 01, 2015.
- 2. Pastor Delroy Burley from the Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of the Bethlehem Moravian congregation in Barbados, with effect from August 01, 2015.
- 3. Bro. Daniel Mark a Minister in Training from Tobago, has been assigned to the Grenada Mission for his Summer Assignment, with effect from May 27 to July 27, 2015.
- 4. Bro. Kevin St. Hill a Minister in Training from Barbados, has been assigned to the St. Kitts Conference for his Summer Assignment, with effect from May 27 to July 27, 2015.

Let us remember our Brothers and their families in our prayers, as they take up these new assignments.



Birthday Greetings for the Month of June is extended to:

Sis. Sharon McCardy Joseph	05
Bro. Nigel Daniel	05
Sis. Bernadine Chase	07
Bro. Calvin Isaac	13
Sis. Joycelyn Connor	17
Bro. Selvin McMillan	25
Sis. Jasmine Crooks	26
Sis. Roslyn Hamblin	29





Anniversary Greetings for the Month of June is extended to:

Bro. Reuben Vessup & Sis. Ivy Vessup 01 Bro. Kirk & Sis. Nicole Barker 24



Earthquake Disaster In Nepal Appeal Cont'd from Page 6

This will give us an opportunity to remember the people of Nepal, including especially our Moravian brothers and sisters in Nepal in prayer.

We are thankful that some of the Mission Agencies apart from the British Mission Board, including HMH and ABWM are already engaged in raising funds for the Nepal, please also pay attention to their efforts.

Thank you for paying attention to the situation in Nepal. May we all walk in God's calling, to remember Nepal in our prayers in these difficult days and may we all listen to any call from our Lord to assist the efforts in Nepal to help the victims of the disaster

A Special offering will be taken in each congregation to assist the people of Nepal on Sunday May 31st, 2015. Kindly forward all offerings to the Moravian Provincial Headquarters in a timely manner so that we can forward same to the British Province.

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The increase in demonic activity can be linked to dwindling faith among people and a growing interest and participation in occult activities like Ouija boards and seances, said Cascioli.

I want to encourage all of our Pastors to enlighten our general membership on the dangers of this latest craze. More especially, we need to be there, to help our young people through this period. The crisis counseling and dealing with families in distress will be on our door steps. The old proverb says, "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure". May God help us all.



Daughter Sending Wedding Message to Dad

Daughter:

"Daddy, I am coming home to get married. Take out your cheque book. I'm in love with a boy who is far away. He lives in Australia. We met on a dating website, became friends on Facebook, had long chats on Whatsapp, he proposed to me on Skype and now we've had two months of relationship through Viber.

Dad, I need your blessings, good wishes and a big wedding!"

Father:

"Wow! Really! Then get married on Twitter, have fun on Tango, buy your kids on Amazon, and pay through Paypal.

And if you get fed up with your husband... sell him on eBay!" My laugh for today

- Conferences
- Meetings
- Seminars
- Weddings
- Banquet
- Dinner

Only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks in St. John's.

Our International airport is also just ten minutes away.

Our balcony provides a refreshing view of undulating hills and valleys.

The conference center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.

We are situated on a hill over -looking the picturesque out-skirts of the city of St. John's, Antigua.

There are EIGHT LARGE APARTMENTS which are available for rental. Each room is self contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air-conditioned with Available internet and cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.

Moravian Multipurpose Complex



Conference Center & Apartments



Contact us

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