

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

November, 2015



In Spirit and in truth, struggling to mirror the Chief Elder's Mandate

Someone has said, when God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart instead of the head.

A preacher once preached an entire series of sermons on some very challenging scriptures in the hope of winning one particular man of great intellect to Christ. Shortly after the series ended, to the preacher's delight, the man came forward to announce that he had become a convinced Christian and wanted to join the Church. Pleased with himself, the preacher said, "and which of my sermons was it that removed your doubts?"

The man replied, "Your sermons? It wasn't any of your sermons." "What was it then?" the preacher asked, greatly disappointed.

The man said, "The thing that set me thinking was when a poor woman came out of Church and stumbled down the steps right beside me. When I put out my hand to help her, she smiled and said, 'thank you' and then added, 'Do you love Jesus Christ my blessed Saviour? He means everything to me.' I did not then, but I thought about what she had said. I found I was on the wrong road. I still have many questions, but now Jesus means everything to me too."

Faith is not based on convincing God of our goodness. Faith is receiving God's goodness, which He has given us through Jesus Christ. When God commissioned Samuel to choose and anoint the first King of Israel, he had the mistaken notion that good looks and what appeared on the outside was a criterion for the position, however, God quickly reformed and redirected his thinking. "For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7).

We live in a very challenging world, where one has to struggle to live out his/her faith in the midst of a world where evil seems to thrive. Sometimes the person who seeks to live according to the rules of God many times struggle to survive. The good person is sometimes battered, bruised, despised and rejected. Why do evil people seem to prosper? Is this long lasting?

Inside This Issue

Continue on Page 2

<i>In Spirit and in Truth, struggling to mirror the Chief Elder's Mandate</i>	Pgs 1-2	<i>Tribute to Rev. Ray Joseph</i>	Pg 4	<i>Hymn of the Month</i>	Pg 6	<i>Birthdays/Anniversaries/ New Hymnal!!! Joke of the Day Which step have you reached</i>	Pg 8
<i>100 Years, Praise God</i>	Pg 3	<i>Cloud of witnesses</i>	Pg 5	<i>Streaming of Consecration Service The Office of Bishop</i>	Pg 7	<i>Rental of Multipurpose Complex</i>	Pg 9

Fulfilling the Mandate - Advance the Kingdom

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:

Moravian Church - EWI Province
Moravian Provincial Headquarters
Cashew Hill, P.O. Box 504
St. John's, Antigua
Tel: (268)560-0185
Fax(268)462-0643

EMAIL ADDRESS
moravianchewip@gmail.com

WEB ADDRESS
<http://www.moravians.net>

In Spirit and in Truth Struggling to mirror the Chief

Elder's Mandate

Cont'd from Page 1

It is the Psalmists who challenges us to live in Spirit and truth and continue to mirror the Chief Elder's Mandate

In Psalm 1, the writer declares:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.⁴ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

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

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

The anniversary of this announcement to the congregations in the Moravian World has become one of the great festivals of the Moravian Church. The festival is celebrated in different ways in the Moravian Church World Wide. The purpose of celebrating the historical event with services, including the Love feasts, Cup of Covenant or Holy Communion is to offer to every member the opportunity to realize that Jesus Christ is Head and Chief Elder of the Moravian Church.

No human person could or can be Chief Elder in the Moravian Church. This position is only reserved for Jesus Christ. He is also Head of each individual believer, and on this day, members should consciously renew their pledge of loyalty and confirm in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper their personal fellowship with the Saviour. May this Chief Elder Festival find us acknowledging Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lord's. Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow Him.

We no longer use the lot as a way to figure out what Jesus would have us do in the church, but we still look to him as our Chief Elder. He is the one to whom we should take our troubles and he is the one who can overcome divisions and anger in our lives and unite us. He is the one who teaches us to forgive and who sends us out in the world as servants. By proclaiming that Jesus is our Chief Elder, we acknowledge that he is the true head of the church and all that we do should be pleasing to him. It is also a reminder to us that true leadership is servant leadership like that of Jesus. Every year on November 13, Moravians around the world should ask themselves, "What does our Chief Elder want us to do as a church?"

As we commemorate another Chief Elder festival, I want to commend to you the hymn, We hail you chief Elder, our Jesus and King." This hymn was written by Edris Roberts from Antigua.

11.11.11.11. (Anapaestic)

We hail you Chief Elder, Our Jesus and King!
On this Festal Day, all our tributes we bring:
Of Praise and Thanksgiving, Devotion and Love
You, only are worthy, our dear Lord, above.

Our Leader, our Teacher, our Ruler and Guide,
May we, day by day, Lord, stay close by Your side-
Your teachings to follow, Your wisdom to see-
That like You, O Lord we'll, aspire to be.

We praise You, we thank You, our Saviour and Friend,
We'll love You and serve You, until our life's end;
In Your strength we'll conquer, all evils around,
For with You, our Saviour, rich graces abound.

Our blessings, dear Father, for Jesus, Your Son,
All Righteous, all Holy, the only true One;
Our Church's Chief Elder, He always will be,
Till we meet in heaven, when His face we see.

On October 3, 2015, surrounded by family and friends, Pauline Louise Thomas celebrated her 100th birthday at the Bethany Moravian Church on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands.



Pauline Louise Thomas – Centenarian

Pauline Louise Thomas is the second child of John and Helen “Ellen” Prince and was born in Palestina, St. John, on October 3, 1915. Her deceased siblings are Herman Prince, Laura Prince Sewer, Ophelia Prince Blackwood and Naomi Prince-Jacobs. She was married to the late John Thomas and the late Fermin Sewer.

“Auntie Pauline” as she is affectionately referred to by family and friends, worked for over 40 years at the Caneel Bay Resort on St. John. After her retirement, she became a foster grandparent to the children at the Cruz Bay Day Care Center for 11 years.

For her entire life, “Auntie Pauline” has attended various Moravian Churches and was very active at the Emmaus Moravian Church during her youth. She faithfully attended Bethany, Memorial, and New Herrnhut where her adopted son, Rev. Ralph Prince was pastor. To this day, she reads her bible daily and participates in morning devotions. She has an excellent memory of past events which she is always willing to share and remembers things she heard before her birth and practically everything that has happened since she was born.

Auntie Pauline loves to sing and will take advantage of any occasion to sing at church, social functions or at home to entertain friends with one of her all-time favorite songs. Her present favorite song is “God is Love”, and a favorite that some persons have learned by heart, “The Future Belongs to the Children”.

One of her passions is drama. She acted in many religious and secular plays directed by Ms. Gerda Marsh and for many years was involved in the community with Hans Eilser performing in Cruz Bay, Coral Bay and St. Thomas.

100 Years! Praise God!

Auntie Pauline has always taken pride in her personal deportment. She selects attractive outfits and loves to accessorize with scarves, hats, bands to complement her outfits and give her a sophisticated look.

She is a great family person, always calling her relatives to wish them a happy birthday or to find out if they arrived safely when traveling overseas or to give them the latest news. The family was delighted that she was able to reunite them with one of her New York cousins whom they did not know and he was equally delighted to meet them. We all love her very much and pray that God will bless her with many more years of good health, prosperity and happiness!



AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

St. Thomas	1732
St. Croix	1734
St. John	1741
Antigua	1756
Barbados	1765
St. Kitts	1777
Tobago	1790
Trinidad	1890

THE PROVINCIAL ELDERS CONFERENCE OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH EASTERN WEST INDIES PROVINCE

Chairman: The Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, B.A., M.A., Th.D
 Vice Chairman: The Rev. Dr. Errol Connor, B.A., S.T.M., D. Min
 Secretary: The Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts, B.A. Th.M. PhD
 Member: Mrs. Karen Challenger-George, B.A.
 Member: Mr. George Ramsay, SCV.
 Treasurer: Ms. Elisa G. Hodge, B.S, M.B.A.



Provincial Headquarters, P.O. Box 504, Cashew Hill, Antigua, W.I.
Tel: (268) 560-0185; Fax (268) 462-0643

E-mail: moravianchewip@gmail.com, moravianchewip@candw.ag

Tribute at the passing of Rev. Ray Joseph

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Chief Elder.

The entire Eastern West Indies Province is saddened by the passing of the late Rev. Ray Joseph. He was one of our Pastors who served well in the Moravian Church. He was a very hard, dedicated and loyal man of God. He endeared himself to all persons that he came in contact with. He was a very dear friend and brother and a God fearing man. He demonstrated this by the way he lived out his faith.

We all must die one day and though we are aware of this reality, Rev. Joseph's death has rocked us all. During the 31st Provincial Synod of the Eastern West Indies Province, held in Antigua from July 10-16, 2015, we took time out to lift him and his family up in prayer. God has seen it fit to call him up at this time and he had no choice but to answer the call.

He was a very calm and unassuming person, who spoke when it was necessary. You would have made a terrible mistake if you took his meekness for weakness, for he was a strong man who knew what he was about. He has left a void in the life of our Church, but we are comforted in the sense that he gave of his best. He touched many of us.

I believe that on a regular basis he would have prayed like Horatius Bonar, this prayer:

I dare not choose my lot;
 I would not, if I might;
 Choose Thou for me, my God,
 So I shall walk aright.

We have lost a Soldier and champion of the faith. Those of us, who are yet alive, let us Rev. Joseph's death as a message that we can be here one moment and gone the next. Let us therefore seek to live God-Fearing lives and make our calling and election sure. Let us seek to be a blessing wherever we are planted.

On behalf of the Eastern West Indies Province and on behalf of my family, we express sincere condolences to the Joseph family. We will all miss him. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory!

Kind Regards,
 Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis,
 Chairman of PEC

Cloud of Witnesses

by Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton Roberts

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.

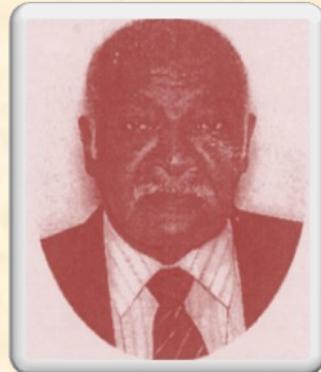
The biography of Rev. Rudolph Gibbs Sr. was submitted by his daughter Shirley Gibbs.

Rev Rudolph Gibbs was born on the 2nd of September 1932, in Bridgetown, Barbados. Bro Gibbs received his Christian foundation at the Calvary Moravian Church, Roebuck street where he had been a faithful member.

As a young man, Bro Gibbs worked in sales at the Singer Company. Following this, he became self-employed and worked hard to make ends meet for his family. In spite of his work commitment, he became a lay preacher and was one of the early members of the Barbados Layman's League.

Bro Gibbs was married to Megan Gibbs for 47 years and they had five children before he passed. She died in London England on December 22, 2014. Bro and Sis Gibbs understood each other well, thought alike and talked alike.

Bro Gibbs had promised God that if he were to live to the age of fifty that he would enter into full-time ministry.



He kept his promise to the Lord and accepted the call to the ordained ministry in the Moravian Church after his fiftieth birthday. Bro Gibbs received his theological training at the Codrington College Barbados.

Upon completion of his studies, Bro Gibb's first call was to the St Kitts Conference where he served as Pastor of Bethesda and Keys from September 1984 to November 1987. He was then called to serve as Pastor of the Estridge and Bethel churches from November 1987 to July 1991.

On July 15, 1991 he was called as Pastor of the Potter/Bethany and Judges Hill churches, Antigua where he served until December 31, 1996. After this call Bro Gibbs returned to his home country, Barbados, and served as Pastor of Bethlehem and Fulnec congregations from January 1997 until his retirement.

Bro Gibbs was known for his "ten minute" sermons and short worship services. He was regarded as one of the most faithful ministers to the sick and shut-in members. He visited the hospitals weekly whether he had a member there or not. He could always be seen with his clerical shirt or a shirt jack on his off days.

He was a tickler for time and was always early for every event he attended. Nothing made him more irritated than when persons, especially Pastors, were late. He was well loved in all the Conferences he served and built strong friendships.

On January 26, 2004 Bro Gibbs died of a massive heart attack. He was 71 years old.

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



With the arrival of the 11th month of the year, November is typically associated with the Harvest/Thanksgiving season. Though we've had a serious drought across much of the Caribbean over the past few months, there is still so much for which

to be thankful. This hymn first appeared in the Caribbean Conference of Churches ecumenical supplementary hymnal **Sing A New Song No. 3** and was written by Alban Henry.

The texts of this hymn serve as a fitting reminder that there are two harvests that as Christians we must always be mindful of. As we observe our annual harvest and thanksgiving services where we tend to focus on the produce of the land, this hymn reminds us of another type of harvest. This is the harvest, not of fruits and vegetables, but of people. We are challenged throughout this hymn to consider this truth: in the same way we plant seeds in the ground and then at harvest go and gather them and bring them to the Lord, we must do the same when it comes to bringing people to the Lord.

The opening stanza calls us to embrace that this mandate to gather people for the Lord is not directed to just a select few. Instead, it is for all to get up and get going to reap people for the Lord. In the second verse, we see that there is no limitation as to who is qualified to come in and be gathered into the harvests. This is in keeping with Jesus' open invitation for all to come and experience the abundant life which is offered through the gift of salvation. And the second refrain underscores the all-inclusive nature of this harvest. In the third and fourth verses we are reminded that the harvest field is everywhere and that as we sow the seed of God's Word there ought to be a sense of urgency on our part in carrying out this divine mandate.

As you celebrate harvest and thanksgiving this month, might we also pray for and usher in the harvest of people everywhere into the Kingdom of God.

Below are the words for this hymn:

*Go gather the people, bring them in to the Lord,
There's room at the table, go bring them in to the Lord.*

*Go gather the people, bring them in to the Lord,
There's room at the table, go bring them in to the Lord.*

Brothers all, sisters all, Christians everywhere,
Leave your sleep, time to reap, harvest time is here,
All believers, all you reapers go with one accord,
Go to work among the people, reap them in to the Lord.

Call them in, weak ones and the strong,
Young and old to the fold, bring them all along.
Unbelievers and backsliders to the house of God
Tell them that the doors are open wide, come back to
the Lord.

(This Refrain is for the second verse ONLY)

*Go bring the backsliders, bring them back to the Lord.
Bring the unbelievers, go bring them back to the Lord.*

*Go gather the people, bring them in to the Lord.
There's room at the table, go bring them in to the Lord.*

Sow the word of the Lord, answer to his call.
Here and there, far and near, spread the news to all,
To the highways and the byways, let them hear his
word.

All are precious in his sight, so bring them in to the
Lord.

Come today, don't delay, to the field we go
With the word of the Lord, reaping what we sow.
Get to work and do not shirk for there is much to do.
Truly plenteous is the harvest, yet the workers are few.

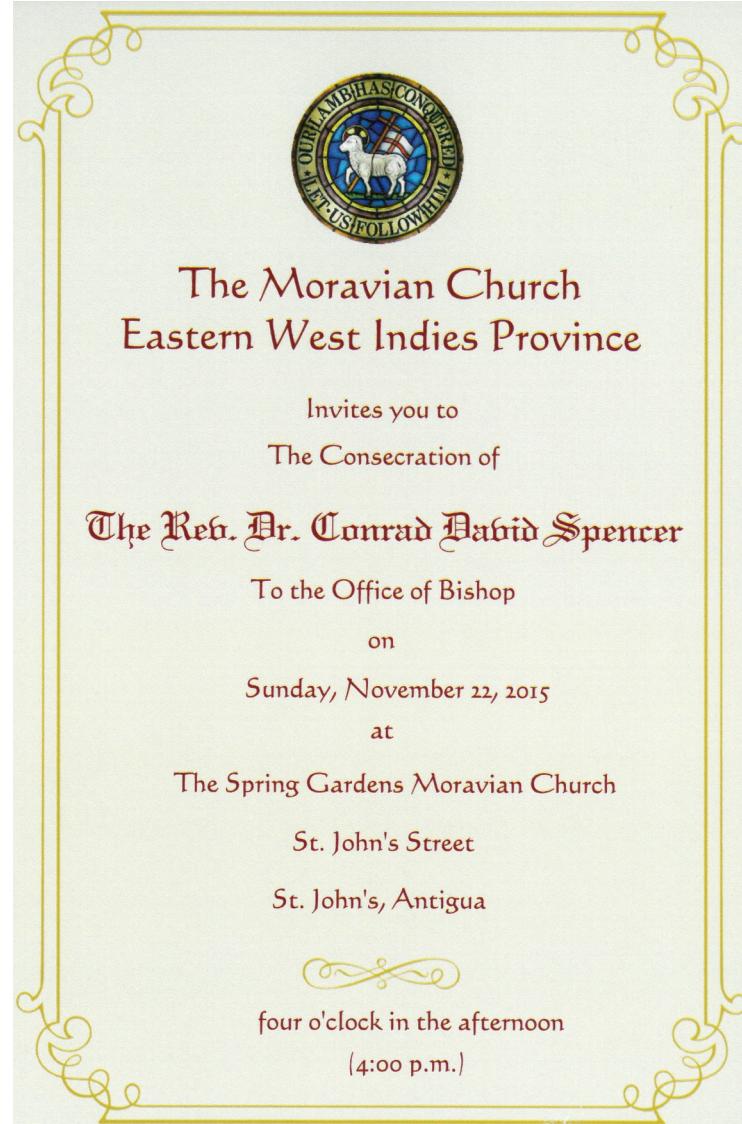
Quote of the Day

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.

Albert Einstein

Streaming of Consecration Service

The Consecration Service for the Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer will be streamed live @ www.abstvradio.com. The streaming will begin at 4.00 pm.



The constituted orders of the ministry in the Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) are those of Deacons, Presbyters and Bishops.

The Unitas Fratrum was persecuted and suppressed in the 1620s but not extinguished.

The Renewed Unitas Fratrum received the episcopacy as an inheritance from the Ancient Unitas Fratrum.

Today we regard the episcopacy in the Moravian Church in a different way from that of the Ancient Unitas Fratrum.

The Office of Bishop

Formerly, a Bishop had a Church-Governmental; and administrative function. In our day, however, this function is not necessarily linked to the Episcopal office. We hold to the understanding, common both to the Ancient and Renewed Unity, that only Christ is Head of the Church and pastoral oversight is exercised in responsibility to Him.



A Bishop of the Moravian Church is consecrated to a special priestly pastoral ministry in the name of and for the whole church.

The Office of Bishop represents the vital unity of the Church and the continuity of the Church's ministry, although the Moravian Church does not place emphasis on any mechanical transmission of the apostolic succession. The office and function of a Bishop is held for life and is valid throughout the Moravian Church as a whole, and as such is not tied to any Diocese or Province. Hence a Bishop never retires his Episcopal office.

It also follows that there can be more than one Bishop within a Province, each having equal status.

A Bishop as a Bishop has responsibility primarily for providing pastoral care to pastors and the Church and assisting the Church in its faithfulness to Christ and the Gospel. A Bishop has a special duty of intercession for the Moravian Church, and also for the Church of Christ as a whole.

The opinion of a Bishop (Bishops) shall customarily be sought and given due consideration and weight in matters of doctrine and practice.

A Bishop represents the Church in the act of ordination. Only Bishops have the right to ordain or to consecrate to the various orders of the ministry, but only when commissioned to do so by the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) of the Synod.

A Bishop, however, has the right to decline a commission to ordain should he/she wishes to do so.

The Synod of the Bishop's Province may also add administrative responsibility by electing him/her a member of the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC).

A Bishop may be assigned by his/her Province to represent the Province in ecumenical gatherings and before governmental agencies.



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

Sis. Onita K. Samuel	01
Bro. Rowan Simmons	19
Bro. Ezra Parris	21
Sis. Myrtle Miller	21
Sis. Geraldine Roberts	23
Sis. Joyce Walters	24
Bro. Nevin Lewis	27

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

Bro. Alban and Sis. Cynthia St. Hill	24
--------------------------------------	----



New Hymnal!!!

**Caribbean Moravian Praise
is now on the way.**

**The script has been submitted to the
Publishers and the down payment made
on October 31, 2015.**

**We anticipate that the Hymn book will be
available by February 2016, all things
being equal.**

Thank You Lord!

Joke of the Day

A few minutes before the services started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate.

Soon everyone had exited the church except for one elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seeming oblivious to the fact that God's ultimate enemy was in his presence. So Satan walked up to the old man and said, "Don't you know who I am?"

The man replied, "Yep, sure do."

"Aren't you afraid of me?" Satan asked.

"Nope, sure ain't," said the man. "Don't you realize I can kill you with a word?" asked Satan. "Don't doubt it for a minute," returned the old man, in an even tone. "Did you know that I could cause you profound, horrifying, physical AGONY... for all eternity?" persisted Satan.

"Yep," was the calm reply.

"And you're still not afraid?" asked Satan.

"Nope."

More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, "Well, why aren't you afraid of me?"

The man calmly replied, "Been married to your sister for the last 48 years."





Moravian Multipurpose Complex

- ◆ 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 overlooking the picturesque outskirts 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.



Conference Center & Apartments



Contact us
 Tel: (268)560-0185
 Fax: (268) 462-0643
 email: moravianchewip@gmail.com