

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

October, 2015



What does the Red or Blood Moon mean?

Over the past few weeks there has been some excitement in anticipation of the appearance of the Blood Moon, Red Moon or Super Moon. There was therefore a challenge to research deeper into the phenomenon and its importance. What did the research reveal? It revealed that the term *Blood Moon* applies to the full moons of the ongoing *tetrad* that is— four successive total lunar eclipses, with no partial lunar eclipses in between, each of which is separated from the other by six lunar months (six full moons) in 2014 and 2015. The first *Blood Moon eclipse* in the ongoing series of four happened on the night of April 14-15, 2014. The second one took place on October 7-8, 2014, and the third one (the shortest total lunar eclipse of the 21st century) was on April 4, 2015. The fourth and final total lunar eclipse of the ongoing *lunar tetrad*, that is, four total lunar eclipses in a row, spaced at six full moons apart took place on the night of September 27-28, 2015. It was quite visible with the naked eye all over the world.



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis
Chairman of PEC

Mark Blitz and John Hagee speak of a lunar tetrad as

representing a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. After all, Scripture is replete with references of what will happen as it draws closer to the end of time. One of the signs that would be visible is, the moon is supposed to turn blood red before the *end times*, as described in Joel 2:31 (Common English Bible):

The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood before the great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

That description, by the way, sounds like a combined total solar eclipse and total lunar eclipse. It sounds like a description of a total eclipse by someone who perhaps has never seen one.



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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What does the Red or Blood Moon mean?

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- ▶ Sun turned to darkness = moon directly between the Earth and sun in a total solar eclipse.
- ▶ Moon turned to blood = Earth directly between the sun and moon, Earth's shadow falling on the moon in a total lunar eclipse.

Solar and lunar eclipses are very ordinary and frequent happenings that have occurred many times in our lifetimes, but it is said that they don't happen, can't happen, ever, on the same day.

As one reflects on the phenomenon of the Red Moon and what it might or might not signify, permit me to share a selection of scripture passages which speak directly to this phenomenon:

Acts 2:20- The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

Revelation 6:12-14 - And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood Joel 2:30-31 - And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Matthew 24:29 - Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Revelation 7:1-17 - And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

Romans 10:9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Revelation 1:1-20 - The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the

archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Revelation 3:10 - Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 12: 1-17 - And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

Whatever the outcome or significance of the Blood Moon that appeared on September 27-28, 2015, it will make no difference to men and women who are not prepared to meet his/her God. The all important thing is for us to so live our lives that when Jesus makes his appearance we will be ready to meet him.

The meaning of the quotation by Peter in Acts 2:20 is that what occurred on the day of Pentecost was the beginning of the signs and wonders that was to take place during the times of the Messiah. It is not intimated that those scenes were to close or to be exhausted in that age. They may precede that great day of the Lord which is yet to come in view of the whole earth.

The great and notable day of the Lord, which is called the great day of the Lord will happen sometime. Scripture declares that no one knows the day or the hour, not even the Angels in heaven. On that day Christ will be signally manifested, more impressively and strikingly than on other times. The word "notable," (ἐπιφανῆ) from the greek word epiphanē, means "signal, illustrious, distinguished."

In Joel the word is "terrible or fearful"; a word applicable to days of calamity, and trial, and judgment. The Greek word here rendered notable is also in the Septuagint frequently used to denote "calamity" or "times of judgment," as enunciated in Deuteronomy 10:21; 2 Samuel 7:23. This will apply to any day in which God signally manifests himself, but particularly to a day when he shall come forth to punish people, as at the destruction of Jerusalem, or at the Day of Judgment. The meaning is that those wonders would take place before that distinguished day should arrive when God would come forth in judgment.

As we think of the future and what might be, a quotation from Wayne Dyer is very appropriate to conclude this article. He says, "Stop acting as if life is a rehearsal. Live this day as if it were your last. The past is over and gone. The future is not guaranteed." God Bless!

Moravian Ministers Covenant Day...It's a New Season. It's a New Day.

Each organization has its own culture. It is important that each person who becomes a member of the organization seek to understand why the organization does what it does. Many times persons get lost and feel isolated in the organization to which they have become a part because they never took time to understand the dynamics and the culture that has kept and propelled the organization over the years.

The Church is no different. Today, September 16, 2015, marks 274 years since the Moravian Church began to celebrate Ministers Covenant Day. It is a time when Moravian Ministers gather together to pray for, encourage, support and fellowship with one another. At such times, they renew their Covenant with each other and the Lord. It was during a Synodal Conference in London on September 16, 1741, that Jesus Christ was recognized as Chief Elder of the Brethren's or Moravian Church, however, the announcement of Jesus Christ as Chief Elder was not made until November, 13, 1741. September 16 is therefore a very special day for Moravian Ministers worldwide. On such a day, the Joys of Ministry are celebrated and Woes of Ministry are reflected upon, to see what can be done to make the Servant of God more effective.

The Minister operates in several roles. Of vital importance though, the Minister is Priest, Preacher, Teacher, Pastor, Evangelists, Counsellor, Spouse and Parent and the like. How does the Minister bring balance to all the roles he/she is expected to perform without experiencing Burnout? The Minister is human and must seek at all times to remember who he/she represents.

The Minister as Priest is a very important role. The Jewish Religion gave birth to Christianity, and however hard we may try, we cannot successfully and completely separate the two. The religion of Israel was fundamentally a sacrificial one and the Priests, beginning with Aaron, played a significant role. They were the ones who were selected and consecrated to preside at the sacrificial altar, to represent the people before God and to intercede on their behalf. This was but a foreshadowing of the coming of Christ who was himself the sacrificial Lamb as well as the Great High Priest. It is only through him that we have redemption from sin and reconciliation with God.

The Ordained Minister is a humble representative of Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest; a person who is chosen and commissioned to maintain not the sacrificial life to the Old Israel, but the sacramental life of the Church, the New Israel.

The emphasis that we place on the Priesthood of all believers, where each believer has free access to God, does not negate the Priesthood of the Ordained person.

Apart from maintaining the sacramental life of the Church, the Ordained Minister has another important Priestly function and that is to intercede and pray on behalf of the Flock and indeed, of all humankind. Jesus Christ the Great High Priest, whose humble representatives we are, said in His High Priestly prayer:

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me”. (John17:20-23).

As Priests, Ministers of the Church are by the very nature of Ordination, required to pray for believers and non believers alike. The Minister as Priests must be a praying person, who prays with and for people, by holding up before God the members of his/her congregation and all those who are in need. He/she ought to bear the members on his/her heart and to love them as God loves us.

As Ministers of the New Covenant I encourage us to lift high the cross of Christ in our daily living. Let walk alongside each other as colleagues and friends and determine to strengthen each other and the ministry which God has entrusted to us.

As we celebrate another Ministers Covenant Day, let us allow Christ to breathe afresh upon us. Let us commit ourselves working more closely with each other as we forge ahead to advance God's Kingdom. Allow our Code of Ethics to help us refocus as we celebrate.

by Rev. Dr Cortroy Jarvis

Cloud of Witnessess

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.



Rev William Austin Osborne

The biography of Rev William Austin Osborne was submitted by his Son Rev Randall Austin Osborne.

Rev William A. Osborne was born in St Kitts, West Indies on June 22, 1881. His father, Henry Richard Osborne, born 1837, was married to Sarah Anne Carty. This union produced several sons and two daughters.

In short and most pertinent are my father, William Austin Osborne, my uncle Allan Wall Westerby Osborne (also a Moravian Minister) and my aunt Helen Osborne, life-long organist at Bethesda Moravian Church, St Kitts.

My dad attended Buxton Grove Theological Seminary, now a Girls School in St John's Antigua and graduated in 1910. While awaiting a call to the ministry he taught at Estridge Moravian School until he was called to Tobago in 1913. Until this age that adage still appears traditional as starting ground.

Rev Osborne served in Tobago until he was called to Clifton Hill, Barbados (possibly 1924) and married the lady who attended Spring Gardens Antigua while he was attending the same Church. He married Mabel Zenobia Dash on June 9, 1925.

My father, I am told, was called to Emmaus St John in 1926. He was called to Greenbay Antigua in 1930 and served there until 1941 when he answered the call to Emmaus Moravian, St John.

In 1948 he was transferred to Tabernacle Moravian Church, Betervervagting, British Guiana, South America. Then in 1955, he was stationed at Queenstown Moravian Church.

After a short illness he was taken to Georgetown hospital where he was called home to be with his Lord. He had two sons, Rev William Randall Austin Osborne and Henry Samuel Osborne. Henry was born in St Thomas USVI on December 16, 1929 and died in Antigua in May 1930.



**The Provincial Elders Conference
Congratulates
The Moravian Church
Barbados Conference on its 250th Anniversary.
A Service of Thanksgiving
was held at Sharon Moravian Church
on September 27, 2015
at 5:00p.m.**



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

For the month of October we will focus our attention on a hymn that was written by the Rev. Dr. Ulston P. Smith, a Moravian pastor serving as Minister of Music in the Trinidad and Tobago Conferences. The

hymn is ***I WILL FOLLOW JESUS CLOSELY*** and the accompanying tune is ***WILDIN***. Though the primary images in this hymn lends it to being labelled as a communion hymn, its message extends beyond just a single form of worship as captured in a communion service.

This hymn is an invitation for us to follow closely the Lord Jesus. And as we contemplate how this might be accomplished, we are reminded that this is possible through our sharing in the body and blood of Christ. Through this sacred meal, several things happen: we are nourished; we are satisfied; we are victorious; we are made secure. Beyond what is accomplished in us, our relationship with each other is also impacted directly because of our decision to accept the invitation to follow Jesus. Most notable is that we adopt an attitude of love rather than one of judgement. In the final stanza we are called to embrace the truth that our following Jesus will not only have a positive outcome among our brother and sisters. Because of our decision to follow Jesus, our sphere of influence will extend to a hurting world where we become instruments of God's healing.

So as you share at the Lord's Table might this hymn be a timely reminder of the invitation that "whosoever will may come." Allow the message of this hymn to reinforce our commitment to follow Jesus and to follow closely. Below are the words and music of this hymn:

I will follow Jesus closely,
Follow to the very end.
There is nothing sweeter to me
Than our Lord the Living Bread.

Bread of Heaven feed me full
So my soul is satisfied.
Nourish now my human yearning
For the cleansing of thy blood.

Blood of Jesus, pain and sorrow;
Blood that gave the victory;
Plunge me deep within thy vessel;
Never more again to leave.

Thee O Lord with full salvation
Gave to us the gift of grace;
Let us now in this communion
Consecrate ourselves once more.

More of You, O blessed Saviour,
When in sin we lose our way;
Help us not to judge each other,
Only love as you would do.

Love it is th' eternal witness,
Sister, brother please comply;
Heal the world that hurts and perish;
Follow Jesus crucified.

I Will Follow Jesus Closely

WILDIN
87.87

2014 Rev. Ulston P. Smith

Rev. Ulston P. Smith 2014

1. I will fol - low Je - sus close - ly, fol - low to the ver - y end.
2. Bread of Heav - en feed me ful - ly so my soul is sa - tis - fied.
3. Blood of Je - sus, pain and sor - row; Blood that gave the vic - to - ry;
4. Thee O Lord with full sal - va - tion gave to us the gift of grace;
5. More of You O bless - ed Sav - iour, when in sin we lose our way;
6. Love it is th'e - ter - nal wit - ness, sis - ter, broth - er please com - ply;

There is noth - ing sweet - er to me than our Lord the Liv - ing Bread.
Nour - ish now my hu - man year - ning for the cleans - ing of thy blood.
Plunge me deep with - in thy ves - sel; nev - er - more a - gain to leave.
Let us now in this com - mu - nion con - se - crate our - selves once more.
Help us not to judge each oth - er, on - ly love as you would do.
Heal the world that hurts and per - ish; fol - low Je - sus cru - ci - fied.

The Office of Bishop



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

A Bishop, however, has the right to decline a commission to ordain should he/she wish 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).

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.



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

Bro. Winston Jones	2
Sis. Georgette John-Cotton	6
Sis. Zenaida Ramsay	8
Bro. Joseph Nicholas	15
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew	22
Bro. Algernon Lewis	24
Sis. Julie Joefield-Parris	28



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

Bro. Vankys and Sis. Myrtle Isaac	26
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CARRY YOUR BOOKS?

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
—1 PETER 5:7 KJV

“Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em.”

— William Shakespeare

Drama this Morning

A Man and his wife were having a serious quarrel when he said to her “pack your things and” At that point, her phone rang, so he had to stop for her to receive the call. It was her dad. The phone was on speaker so he could hear what her dad was saying. After the usual pleasantries between father and daughter, he said: “My daughter, I have transferred \$1,000,000 into your account, give your husband \$500,000 out of it, and you can have the other half.” Am sending one of the parked cars to you and your husband for family use. After the good-byes, the call ended, and she turned to her husband: “you said I should pack my things and do what?” “I SAID PACK YOUR THINGS AND GIVE THEM TO ME TO WASH.” I will iron them when light comes back.

Husbands' Quotes

- I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always.
- The last fight was my fault. My wife asked, "What's on the TV?" I said, "Dust!"
- Why do men die before their wives? They want to.
- Young Son: Is it true, Dad, I heard that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?
Dad: That happens in every country, son.
- The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.
- If you want your wife to listen and pay undivided attention to every word you say, talk in your sleep.
- Then there was a man who said, "I never knew what real happiness was until I got married; and then it was too late."
- A little boy asked his father, "Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" And the father replied, "I don't know son, I'm still paying."



Moravian Multipurpose Complex

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

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

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The conference center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.

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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



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