



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

The Information

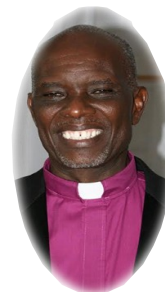
DECEMBER, 2016



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - 2016

from

**The Rt. Rev Dr. Kingsley Lewis and
The Rt. Rev. Conrad Spencer
Episcopi Fratrum**



In the hustle and bustle of the world, we yearn to hear once more the message of the angels:

Glory to God in the highest
And on earth peace
Goodwill toward men! (Luke 2:14)

But what will Christmas be for each of us? Grandparents, Parents, children, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews all have great dreams of Christmas. Whatever those dreams might be we pray that we encounter the Christ whose birth we celebrate and that we experience the peace and goodwill that His Coming represents.

There isn't anything as powerful as a wrapped gift under a tree at Christmas. It stretches our imaginations as we anxiously await the hour to open the mysterious package. However, as we unwrap the sacred narratives of our faith, we get a glimpse of what to expect each year in the neatly wrapped package of Bethlehem. It is the same gift as last year, and it is the same gift for everyone. That gift is Jesus Christ, the enfleshment of the Word – a gift of divine love and grace.

This gift is immeasurably precious and priceless. It is the gift for the salvation of all, wrapped and lying in a manger. Here we are all offered God's Christmas gift that changes the world. The gift that redeems us from the blemishes of sin; purifies us to become the People of God and equips us for the redeeming work of the Kingdom of God. St. Paul says that God sent Jesus Christ to be our Saviour, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:7)

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

Twas the Night



'Twas the night before Christmas,
When all through God's house;
No "Brethren" were stirring, not even a mouse.
Home from candle light service as we go each year;
All truly grateful for His blessings and care!

Everyone was all nestled and snug in their beds,
Continuing to say prayers that were flowing through
their heads;
We thanked God for our pastors, friends and families too;
For His presence and loving kindness in all that we do;

For Chairman Jarvis, the Bishops and the PEC;
For church leaders and church groups, including CEC.
We thanked God for the publication of "Caribbean
Moravian Praise";
And for the Liturgy Book which is in the final phase.

Then suddenly outside there arose such a clatter;
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter;
Away to the window, I ran very fast,
Could he finally be here at last?

But then to my wondering eyes did I see,
Well, not in person but spiritually -
I'm not referring to Santa, but the Holy Ghost,
Accompanied by a multitude of the Heavenly Host.

They brought the gifts of Advent - hope, love, peace
and joy!
These gifts are more precious than clothes, cars or toys.
They also brought the fruit of the spiritual kind -
Like longsuffering, meekness, faith that we all struggle
to find.

Then they left suddenly since they had finished their
work;
And I felt truly blessed as my heart gave a jerk;
For their message became clearer as they faded from
sight-
"Peace and goodwill to All" and to All a GOOD NIGHT!"

Merry Christmas!

Sister Elisa G. Hodge
Treasurer of the PEC

Richard Lwali
<richardlwali@yahoo.com>

December 9, 2016

Sis. Cicely Athill Horsford
Mount Tabor Moravian Church,
Mount Tabor,
St. John, Barbados

GREETINGS FROM TABORA

Dear Cicely,

It is my hope that this message gets you wherever you are. I received your messages *and I replied you, but I'm not sure if reached you.* We here doing well. Thank you very much for the work you did for our province during your stay in Tabora. We do appreciate your teachings at TEKU as well in congregations.

We have seen your love to us MCWT. We pray that this kind of partnership be cemented so as to sustain our inter-provincial relationship. Your visit was a blessing one. Please convey our heartfelt thanks to your president Rev. Jarvis. We love you all.

May God bless you,

Richard.



Fulfilling the Mandate - Advance the Kingdom

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE OF THE MORAVIAN CHURCH EWIP

Sister Elva Richards, presently serving as Associate Pastor of the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua, will be ordained a Deacon on Sunday January 15, 2017. The service will be held at the Memorial Moravian Church in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands at 4.00 pm. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer will be the Presiding Bishop.



Brother Delroy Burley, Presently serving as Pastor of the Bethlehem Moravian Church in Barbados, will be ordained a Deacon on Sunday January 22, 2017. The service will be held at the Sharon Moravian Church in Barbados at 6.00 pm. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis will be the presiding Bishop.



Let us remember our Sister and Brother in our prayers as they prepare to take their Ordination vows.



STUDY LEAVE

The Rev. Algernon Lewis, upon the completion of his Furlough on December 14, will proceed on Study Leave from December 15, 2016 to June 30, 2018.



PROVINCIAL THEME 2017

The Provincial Theme for 2017 is, **“Advance the Kingdom: Use the Keys”**.

Pastors and Ministry Groups are asked to use the prescribed Provincial Themes as a guide when considering suggested themes for events and activities.



NEW LAY MEMBER OF PEC

Bro. Anselm Richards of the Tobago conference was duly elected as the new Lay Member of PEC. The Election of Bro. Richards was done by mail ballot following the passing of bro. George Ramsay. He received the required 2/3 majority vote. We are thankful to God for leading us through this process and we commit Bro. Richards and the entire PEC into His care.



SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE 2017

The 2017 Superintendents Conference will be held at the Provincial Headquarters, Cashew Hill, Antigua from January 31 – February 01, 2017. Superintendents will travel to Antigua on January 30th and leave on February 2nd.



PEC MEETINGS 2017

The meetings of PEC scheduled for 2017 are as follows:

- ☐ February 2 – 3, 2017 - Antigua
- ☐ April 27 – 30, 2017 - Trinidad
- ☐ July 20 – 23, 2017 - St. Croix
- ☐ October 5 – 8, 2017 - Tobago



TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

The PEC, after prayerful consideration, has decided to terminate Rev. Camille James' employment with the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province, with immediate effect.

The Eastern West Indies Province is appreciative and very thankful for Rev. James' service to the Moravian Church and wishes our sister every blessing in all her future endeavours.



Hymn of the Month for December, 2016



December ushers us into the Advent/Christmas season. Our hymn of the month for December is #41 from **CMP**. This hymn was written in 1972 by Sis. Edris Roberts, a Moravian from the Antigua conference. It is a Christmas carol which is often referred to not by the first line of the hymn but by the name '*He is Sleeping*.'

However, the hymn begins with the line '*The sky is aglow*'. The melody was composed by Sis. Roberts herself, but the harmonic arrangement was done by the late Sis. Isalyn C. Richards. The name of the assigned tune is **NEWTONPEARL**.

What makes this hymn intriguing is the use of contrast as a poetic device. From the opening stanza to the closing, we are invited to open our imagination in order to relive the events of the birth of Jesus. The details surrounding that moment when God became flesh are presented in a novel format. The melodic shape of the hymn makes it a lullaby. But what is most striking are the contrasts between the sleeping infant and myriad of events taking place all around him. We are acutely aware of these throughout the hymn. In many ways, it reads as a moving stage in which the back drop is in perpetual motion. For example, we envision a star-lit night; singing angels; a disgruntled guard; worshipful astronomers; and an angry king. Yet even as the scene shifts and there is both chaos and wonder at the miracle that God has become flesh, this child does only one thing – He is sleeping!

But this sleeping infant is no ordinary child. This sleeping infant is "God's dear Son." And so even as our attention is fixed on this sleeping child we are also reminded that there will come a day when we too will bow at his feet in humble adoration. There is also a subtle message of hope that lies in the hymn. We can also find a place of peace, rest and quietness in the midst of life's turmoil. In a sense, we are led to believe that even when the enemy of God seeks to undo the work of God that our faith in God should lead us not to worry but rather to be at peace and even be able to sleep.

Psalms 127: 2 expresses it well, "*God gives sleep to those he loves.*"

I hope that as we sing this carol our imaginations will be enthralled by the skilful use of the contrasting images in this hymn. Further, might the message of this blessed Advent/Christmas season be heard in a fresh way as we sing this hymn.

Below are the words and music for the hymn of the month for December:

The sky is aglow with a bright, shining light,
But He's sleeping.
And angels are chanting their praises tonight,
While He's sleeping.
In the air, everywhere, there is peace on earth. Glory to
God for the dear Saviour's birth!
And Joseph and Mary with wonder and mirth, gaze
While He's sleeping.

'No room in the inn!' they are told by the guard,
But He's sleeping.
He sleeps in a manger on straw for a bed,
Yes, He's sleeping.
The Wise Men bow low as they lay at His feet,
Gold, Frankincense, and that ointment, so sweet,
The Shepherds, they haste to the manger to greet Him
While He's sleeping.

King Herod is wroth! The Messiah is come,
He is sleeping.
King Herod, your plot cannot harm God's dear Son,
He is sleeping.
For men will look up, and He'll answer their call,
Kings will bow down, at His feet they will fall,
He's the King of the world, and the Saviour of all men,
He is sleeping!

1972. Edris M. V. Roberts

Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts
Director, Provincial Hymnal Committee.

41

The Sky Is Aglow

Edris Roberts

Irregular

Melody Edris Roberts,
Arr. Isalyn Richards

1. The sky is a-glow with a bright, shin-ing light, But He's sleep-ing. And an-gels are chan-ting their
2. 'No room in the inn' they are told by the guard, But He's sleep-ing. He sleeps in a man-ger on
3. King He-rod is wroth! The Mes-si-ah is come, He is sleep-ing. King He-rod, your plot can-not

6
prai-ses to-night, While He's sleep-ing. In the air, ev-ery-where, there is peace on- earth.
straw for a bed, Yes, He's sleep-ing. The —wise Men bow low as they lay at His feet,
harm God's dear Son, He is sleep-ing. For —men will look up, and He'll ans-wer their call,

11
Glo-ry to God for the dear Sa-viour's birth! And Jo-seph and Ma-ry with
Gold, Fran-kin-cense, and that oint-ment, so sweet, The Shep-herds, they haste to the
Kings will bow down, at His feet they will fall, He's the King of the world, and the

14 rit. . . .
won-der and mirth, gaze while He's sleep-ing.
man-ger to greet Him while He's sleep-ing.
Sa-viour of all men, He is sleep-ing!
Sleep-ing

Congratulations Graduate!

The Eastern West Indies Province is pleased to congratulate Ms. Shanna Challenger on her graduation from the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus. She has successfully completed her Bachelor's Degree in Ecology with honours. She is now gainfully employed in an exciting project as the Redonda Restoration Programme Coordinator, in charge of conserving one of Antigua's offshore islands.



Ms. Challenger is the daughter of Mrs. Deborah Challenger and the late Rev. Romeo Challenger. We shall keep her in our prayers.

Sharon Moravian Church-Barbados

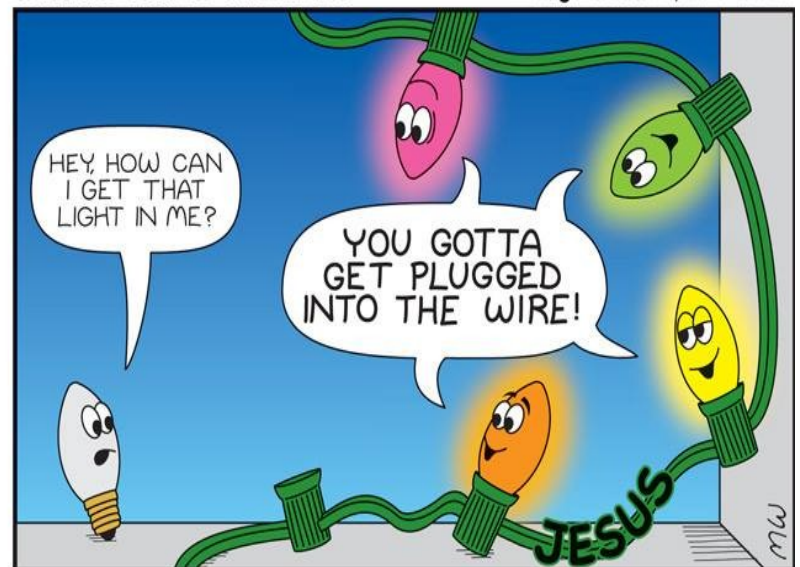


The Sharon Moravian Church in Barbados was lit up in the colours of the Barbados Flag for their 50th Anniversary of Independence on November 30, 2016. The Rev. Ezra Parris is the pastor for the Sharon Moravian Church in Barbados.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- JOHN 8:12 NIV

Fulfilling the Mandate - Advance the Kingdom



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

Bro. Ulric Smith	02
Sis. Eloise Stephen	02
Bro. Alban St. Hill	02
Sis. Liselle Roberts	08
Sis. Bonnie Williams-Smith	10
Sis. Cicely Athill-Horsford	12
Bro. Hilton Joseph	18
Bro. Vankys Isaac	18
Sis. Nasel Ephraim	18
Sis. Maureen Lewis	23
Bro. Alvin Barker	25
Bro. Matthew Crooks	25
Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield	25



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



Bro. Cortroy Jarvis & Sis. Althea Jarvis	07
Sis. Alicia Ross-Floyd & Bro. Myron Floyd	08
Bro. Ulric & Sis. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith	10
Bro. Algernon & Sis. Denise Smith-Lewis	20
Bro. Errol & Sis. Joycelyn Connor	22
Bro. Patmore & Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	27
Bro. Hilton & Sis. Sharon McCurdy Joseph	29



How clever are you?

A rich man needs _____. A poor man has _____. If you eat _____ you die and when you die you can take _____ with you!

Answer: One word fits all 4 blank spaces! It's a seven letter word. What's the answer?

Nothing

Buy your own Gift

Last Christmas, grandpa was feeling his age, and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So he decided to send checks to everyone instead.

In each card he wrote, "Buy your own present!" and mailed them early.

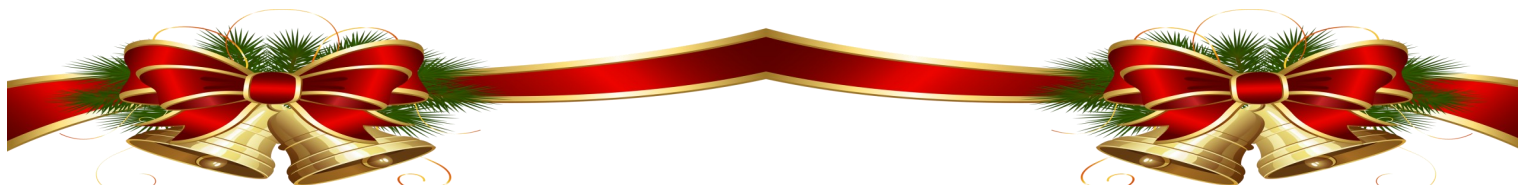
He enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had received very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what had happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks which he had forgotten to enclose with the cards.



Quote of the Day

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

Rick Warren



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



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