

# 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

January, 2016



## The Main thing, is the main thing

With all my heart I wish you rich blessings and all the best for the New Year. May each one of you experience the Lord in many diverse ways!

I call upon all of us to go into the New Year with great trust in the Lord. Recently I read a nice little story in which a robin said to a sparrow: "There is one thing I would really like to know: Why do humans have to rush and worry all the time?" In reply the sparrow said to the robin: "My dear friend, they probably do not know the Father in heaven, who is so kind to you and me."

Now one might argue that life is not so easy, especially not in our days. There is a great deal of distress, concern, and suffering. And at times we just do not see any way out. I am well aware of that! Nevertheless, let us not lose confidence in the Lord and His leadership.

Peter once brought this archetypal confidence in the Lord to expression after many disciples had left the Lord. He responded to Jesus' question: "Do you also want to go away?" with the profession: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:67-68). He was conscious of the fact that there is really no substitute for the Lord.

This must also be our attitude. Let us cast aside all hesitation and simply allow ourselves to fall into the hand of the Lord!

In 1 Peter 2:4-5, Peter speaks of God building a spiritual house. The question is, why is God building a spiritual house? There are two things that are true of every living stone. First, every living stone is placed by God into his house, his church.



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis  
Chairman of PEC

### 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](mailto:moravianchewip@gmail.com)

### WEB ADDRESS

<http://www.moravians.net>

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*The Main thing, is the main thing*  
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The idea that you can be a Christian and not be part of a church is one of the greatest lies Satan has persuaded millions of people in America to believe. It is a dangerous deception to believe that you can be a Christian and not be part of a local church. Second, every living stone that God puts in his house has the same opinion of Jesus that he does. If you are a living stone, Jesus isn't just a person of passing interest to you. He is the most fascinating, most desirable, most necessary person in your life.

He is your life. You feel about him the same way that God the Father feels about him. Those who are being built into a spiritual house have examined all the potential things to build life upon and have discovered that the only thing that is trustworthy is Jesus. Those whom God builds upon the cornerstone of Jesus are those who have discovered that Jesus is the cornerstone of their lives.

At the end of v. 5 Peter changes his metaphor again. He says that God is building us, these living stones, into a spiritual house "to be a holy priesthood." Not only are we the stones that make up the walls of his house but we are also the priests who serve in his house. Immediately, we should think of the priests of the Old Testament to understand what this illustration means. The priests in the Old Testament were the ones set apart in Israel to take care of the temple, to offer the sacrifices and prayers to God that he required, to pray to and praise God and to teach men about God and what he requires. Peter says that all of us are priests. There is not a special class of people any longer who are different than everyone else in their access to God, their service to God, and their necessity in God's work. We don't all have the same functions, just like all the priests in the Old Testament didn't have the same jobs. However, all of us share equally in the value of our labor and contribution to the worship and service of God and man. All of us engage in the work of offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

What are the acceptable spiritual sacrifices that we offer to God through Christ? I don't have time to show you this in the Scriptures but let me give you a simple definition and then a few examples. The spiritual sacrifices we offer to God are all those attitudes, thoughts, words and actions that we have or do by faith in Jesus.

These sacrifices are not just the things we do in or for our local church. It is our whole life, all of our time, abilities, resources, words and actions lived by faith in Christ and to his glory. All of our "sacrifices" are acceptable because of Christ's sacrifice, not because they have intrinsic value in themselves. If you are a living stone through faith in Christ, then your whole life is a living sacrifice. It includes words and songs of thanksgiving and praise. It includes acts of kindness and mercy and help given to others, especially to other Christians. It is financial gifts for the support of missionaries, pastors and the work of the church. It includes the meals we eat and the leisure time we enjoy.

It includes preaching and teaching the gospel in every way that the gospel is shared. It is words of encouragement and warning and correction and comfort to one another. It is the forgiveness and acceptance we offer to one another because we have been forgiven and accepted by God. It is being a loving husband, a respectful wife, an obedient child, a fair employer, a hard working employee. It includes the work we engage in to help the poor and preach the gospel as a church. There is no part of our life together that is not included in these spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Having a church building is a good thing, a helpful thing but not the main thing. Being built, as living stones into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" that is the main thing.

The words recorded in Hebrews 3: 6 caught my attention recently: "But Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end."

"His own house" is His congregation. The defining characteristics of the congregation of the Lord are thus trust, confidence, and hope – hope in the fulfillment of the divine promises. There is really no substitute for this!



Quote of the Day

*God changes caterpillars  
 into butterflies, sand into  
 pearls, and coal into  
 diamonds using time and  
 pressure. He's working  
 on you, too.*

— Rick Warren —



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## Unity Synod 2016

The year 2016 has begun, and for the Moravian Unity it means that we have seen the beginning on an important year, namely the year of 43<sup>rd</sup> Unity Synod of the Moravian Church Unitas Fratrum (the 27<sup>th</sup> Unity Synod of the Renewed Church). It is our task to keep the Unity Synod in prayers, and it will be good to remind the congregations and the brothers and sisters, to pray for the Unity Synod during the coming months!

As mentioned already, the Unity Synod is scheduled to be on August 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

It is now decided that the venue of the Unity Synod is the **Hilton Rose Hall Resort & Spa, Rose Hall, Montego Bay, St. James, Jamaica.**

COUF #265 enunciates that the number of delegates to the Unity Synod shall be according to the following schedule:

- a) The Mission Provinces shall have one delegate each with the right to vote.  
The delegate and alternate shall be appointed by the Provincial Board.
- b) The Unity Provinces shall have three delegates each with the right to vote,  
two elected by Provincial Synod and one appointed by the Provincial Board.
- c) The President of the Unity Board shall have a seat with the right to vote.
- d) The Moravian Church Foundation shall have one delegate with the right to vote.
- e) The Bishops of the Unitas Fratrum shall have two delegates without the right to vote,  
elected from among them.
- f) The Unity Board may invite representatives from Unity Undertakings and Mission Areas  
to attend as advisory delegates without vote.
- g) In case two or more Provinces join one another to form one Province, following the merger  
they are entitled to send to Unity Synod the number of delegates which they had previously.  
At future Unity Synods, the new Province shall have three delegates.
- h) Each Province elects alternates to take the place of any delegates who are unable to attend Synod.

### D. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

COUF #266. Eligible are all members of the Moravian Church of at least two years' standing, who are communicants and who have completed the 24<sup>th</sup> year of their age by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the election takes place and who possess all the other requisite qualifications for membership in their Provincial Synod. All Provinces are encouraged to consider gender equity in choosing delegates to their respective Provincial Synod and to Unity Synod.

COUF #267. **Each Province represented at Unity Synod elects, according to the procedure appointed by its constitution, its delegates and their alter-nates at the Provincial Synod, if possible at the one immediately preceding the Unity Synod.**

COUF #268. As evidence of election, or appointment, **a statement by the Provincial Board, signed by the President must be sent to the President of the Unity Board via the Unity Office (UBA) to be laid before the Unity Synod.**

The Delegates from the EWIP are Jenetta Waithe, Adrian Smith and Cortroy Jarvis.





Hymn of the Month for January, 2016  
Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts  
Director, Provincial Hymnal Committee.



The hymn of the month for January captures this sense of deep gratitude to God for all that God has done in the past while at the same time expresses a faith that declares that God will continue to journey with us. The hymn is ***Brought safely hither by thy hand*** and was written by W. L. Alexander in 1847. In our current hymnal it is #405 and the tune that has been designated is ***SHOPSHIRE***.

As a community of faith whenever we gather for worship, we cannot forget that the grace of God is at work among us in our assembly. This truth somehow becomes more evident as we meet to welcome a new year during our watch night service and on the first Sunday of the year. This hymn underscores that throughout our journey in life we are constantly sustained by God. In the first two verses we are reminded of how the hand of God has guided and protected us bringing us to the house of God to worship. But even as we recognize how God has worked on our part, the next two verses prompt us to remember that as we meet we should pray both for the Church and the world. Once we maintain that proper perspective then we can be hopeful that the joy and beauty of our worship here on earth is but a down-payment of what awaits the people of God one day in the nearer presence of God.

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

Brought safely hither by thy hand,  
Behold us, Lord, before thee stand,  
Once more prepared to thee to raise  
Our humble prayer, our grateful praise.

Blest be the hand whose guardian power  
Has kept us to this present hour;  
Blest be the grace that bids us meet  
Thus round the throne, in union sweet.

We meet to seek in faith and zeal  
The brethren's good, the Church's weal;  
O whilst for Zion's cause we stand,  
May Zion's king be near at hand.

We meet, O God, that through our land,  
The churches, planted by thy hand,  
From error, weakness, discord free,  
May bloom like gardens blest by thee.

Smile on us, Lord, and through this place  
Diffuse the glory of thy face;  
In all our meetings here be given  
A foretaste of the coming heaven.

1847 W.L. Alexander

## Brought Safely Hither By Thy Hand

SHROPSHIRE

1847, W. L. Alexander

L.M.

E. J. Hopkins, 1845

1. Brought safe-ly hith-er by thy hand, be-hold us, Lord, be-fore thee stand, once  
2. Blest be the hand whose guard-ian power has kept us to this pres-ent hour; blest  
3. We meet to seek in faith and zeal the breth-ren's good, the Church's weal; O  
4. We meet, O God, that through our land, the church-es, plant-ed by thy hand, from  
5. Smile on us, Lord, and through this place dif-fuse the glo-ry of thy face; in

5

more pre-pared to thee to raise our hum-ble prayer, our grate-ful praise.  
be the grace that bids us meet thus round the throne, in u-nion sweet.  
whilst for Zi-on's cause we stand, may Zi-on's King be near at hand.  
er-ror, weak-ness, dis-cord free, may bloom like gar-dens blest by thee.  
all our meet-ings here be given a fore-taste of the com-ing heaven.

## PEC Meeting

The PEC has scheduled its meetings for 2016 as follows:

- ▶ February 8-10 in Antigua
- ▶ April 24-27 in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
- ▶ July 21-23 in St. Kitts
- ▶ October 3-5 in Barbados

In addition, the Superintendents Conference for 2016 will take place in Antigua from February 11– February 12, 2016.

Please bear up the members of the PEC and Superintendents in prayer.



## Unity Watchword for the EWIP for 2016

Every year, the Provincial Board of the European Continental Province facilitates the drawing of the individual Watchwords for the Unity Board, Unity Provinces, the Mission Provinces, and the Unity Undertakings of the Moravian Church. The Common Watchword for the year 2016 for the entire Unity is taken from Isaiah 66:13, “As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (NRSV).

The Watchword drawn for the Eastern West Indies Province for the year 2016 is the one drawn on May 4th, 2016 taken from Psalm 118: 15-16, “***There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly***” (NRSV).

This Text is to be used as often as possible throughout the year as a reminder of God’s promise to us.



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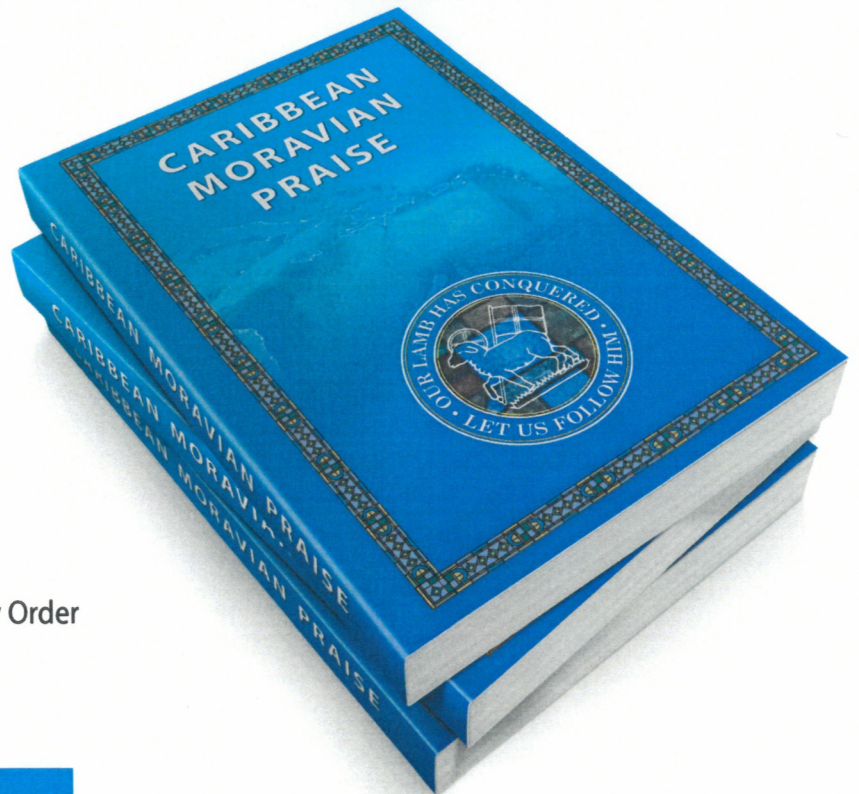
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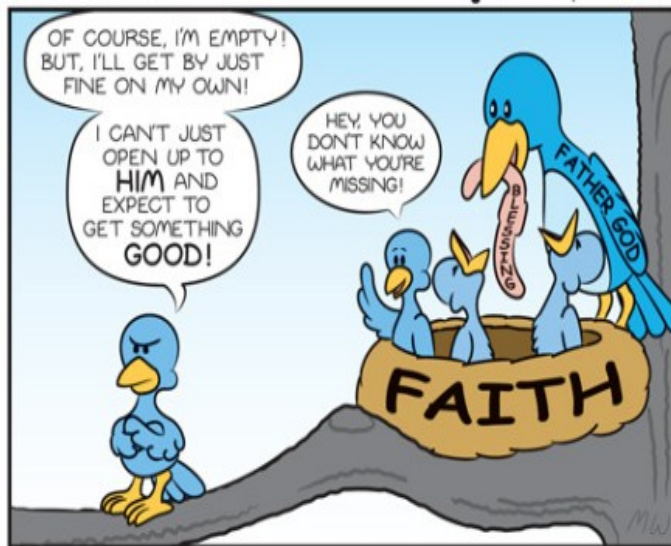


**Birthday Greetings  
for the month of  
January is extended to:**

Sis. Margaret John	04
Sis. Jovanca Lewis-Smith	05
Sis. Sonia Spencer	11
Bro. Moise Jean	12
Bro. George Ramsay	27
Sis. Andrea Lorde-Smith	29



Bro. Nevin Lewis & Sis. Billie Sterling Lewis 05



I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. — PSALM 81:10 KJV



**Your prayers are requested for Sis. Menelva Samuel (Administrative Assistant), on the passing of her sister Ms. Ulanda Ireland. The funeral service for the late Ulanda Ireland will be held on Wednesday January 06, 2015, at the Lebanon Moravian Church in Antigua. The service begins at 2.30pm.**

## Housewife Woes

The worried housewife sprang to the telephone when it rang and listened with relief to the kindly voice in her ear. "How are you, darling?" she said. "What kind of a day are you having?"

"Oh, mother," said the housewife, breaking into bitter tears, "I've had such a bad day. The baby won't eat and the washing machine broke down. I haven't had a chance to go shopping, and besides, I've just sprained my ankle and I have to hobble around. On top of that, the house is a mess and I'm supposed to have two couples to dinner tonight."

The mother was shocked and was at once all sympathy. "Oh, darling," she said, "sit down, relax, and close your eyes. I'll be over in half an hour. I'll do your shopping, clean up the house, and cook your dinner for you. I'll feed the baby and I'll call a repairman I know who'll be at your house to fix the washing machine promptly. Now stop crying. I'll do everything. In fact, I'll even call George at the office and tell him he ought to come home and help out for once."

"George?" said the housewife. "Who's George?"

"Why, George! Your husband!....Is this 223-1374?"

"No, this is 223-1375."

"Oh, I'm sorry. I guess I have the wrong number."

There was a short pause and the housewife said, "Does this mean you're not coming over?"





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