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



Jesus, our Chief Elder

November 13, 2016 will mark the 275th Anniversary since the Moravian Church declared Jesus Christ as Chief Elder. In both the Old and New Testaments, the term

"elder" indicates one of advanced age, Presbyters who had an office of leadership within the people of God.



Chairman of PEC

(Exodus 3:16).

We are not informed about the origin of this office, which was also known outside Israel (Gen. 50:7; Num. 22:7). It probably developed from the tribal structure, the elder being the head of a family or tribe. The basic criterion of age was significant, for it connoted both the experience and wisdom that comes with age and the respect owing the elder (Lam. 5:12). Growing older, however, does not necessarily mean growing wiser. Wisdom could be with the young rather than the old. Therefore elders had to be chosen carefully. Elders could serve locally as elders of a city (Judges 8:14), regionally as elders of a tribe, and nationally as elders of the nation

The key duties of the elders could be summarized as being the twofold task of judging and discipline generally, and of ruling and guiding the people in an orderly way. In this manner the elders were to be in God's service and to be instrumental for the preservation of life with God in the covenant community.

With respect to the task of judging, elders were appointed in the wilderness wanderings by Moses, with the cooperation of Israel, in order to help him judge the people (Exodus 18:13-26). In the promise land, elders were also to be appointed to maintain justice locally (Deut. 16:18), but a higher tribunal of priests and a judge existed for difficult cases (Deut. 17:8-9).

VISION STATEMENT

A Church - Transformed. United. Victorious 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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Jesus, Our Chief Elder Cont'd from Page 1

With respect to the duties of an elder, there is continuity with the basic tasks of the elder in the Old Testament.

All elders have the task of oversight and discipline of the congregation and all have the responsibility to rule and guide the people of God with the Word in a manner that is pleasing to God (Acts 20:29-31). Also elders in the new dispensation are to preserve and nurture life with God in the covenant community. In executing this task they are in the service of their risen Lord to whom they will have to give account and they are empowered by his Spirit.

The elders' task of oversight and discipline can be described in terms of keeping watch and shepherding on behalf of the great shepherd Jesus Christ. In Paul's farewell to the Ephesians elders he said: "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood". The pastoral character of this task of oversight is also indicated when Peter writes: "To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away" (1 Pet. 5:1-4).

With respect to the elder's task of ruling and guiding, he has been set over the congregation. He is a steward of God (Titus 1:7), a manager of God's household who administers the spiritual treasures of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1). Of prime importance, therefore, is to be the administration of the glad tidings. Like their Old Testament counterparts, the elders are to see to it that the gospel and the demands of the Lord are imprinted in the hearts and lives of God's people.

On November 13, the Moravian Church celebrates Jesus Christ as Chief Elder of our Church. This is one of the Memorial days in the Moravian Church's calendar. The Proclamation of the Headship of Christ in the Moravian Church dates back to November 13.

1741. The Ground of the Unity, paragraph 1.11 in the book of Order, EWIP 2012 states the following:

"Jesus Christ is the one Lord and Head of His body, the Church. Because of this, the Church owes no allegiance to any authority whatsoever which opposes His dominion. The Unites Fratrum treasures in its history the vital experience of the Headship of Christ of September 16th and November 13th, 1741".

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 relinquish 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.

I am encouraged by a number of Pastors and Elders in the Eastern West Indies Province. I don't know anyone today in ministry who would say that their job is easy. What keeps them going is not the love of money or the love of power. What keeps them going is that when the Chief Shepherd comes, he is going to call us to account and say, "Did you feed my sheep? Were you vigilant over the souls of the sheep? Did you seek out the lost? Did you guard the deposit of truth? Did you stand watch against the wolves? Did you love my flock? When the Chief Shepherd comes, he will reward the faithful with the unfading crown of glory.

In conclusion, permit me to quote from Rick Warren, on leadership, "the first job of Leadership is to love people. Leadership without love is manipulation." May this Chief Elder Festival take us to higher heights with the Lord!

HYMN FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2016 Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts Director, Provincial Hymnal Committee.



With the arrival of November there is usually harvests celebrations in various congregations. In light of this our hymn of the month for November is *Almighty God, thy Word is cast*. It is hymn #623 in CMP and was originally written by J. Cawood in 1819. The name of the as-

signed tune is *ST. STEPHAN* (# 117 in the old British musical edition).

This hymn presents an analogy of God's Word as a seed planted in the ground. The hymn seeks to affirm that just as the natural seed is watered by the elements of nature and eventually result in fruit-bearing so too with the seed of God's Word. However, the time between the planting of a seed and the bearing of fruit there are challenges that emerge which can potentially disrupt the joy which comes with harvesting. In the case of the seed of God's Word, the adversary always seeks to dislodge the seed from being firmly planted in the soil of the human heart. It is this reality which is highlighted in the second verse. Furthermore, we are reminded that the cares of this world can also stunt the growth of the seed of God's Word in our lives. We should not allow that to happen but instead should nurture that seed so that the final harvest will reveal the fruits of peace and joy. In the fourth verse, we see that the worst case scenario is to be avoided at all cost. God forbid that in our lives there should be any indication that we have rejected the seed altogether. The hymn ends on a positive note believing that God will not only plant the seed in our lives, but that it will also bring forth a bountiful harvest in due course.

As we observe our harvests and thanksgiving celebrations, this hymn reminds us of another kind of harvest which God also considers to be just as important as the harvest of fruits and vegetables. This is an eternal harvest of souls for the Kingdom of God where the seed of God's Word, having been planted in our hearts now bear eternal fruits.

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

Almighty God, thy word is cast Like seed into the ground; Now let the dew of heaven descend, And righteous fruits abound.

- Let not our foe or that of Christ
 This holy seed remove,

 But give it root in every heart,
 To bring forth fruits of love.
- 3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
 The rising plant destroy,
 But let it yield a hundred-fold,
 The fruits of peace and joy.
 - Let not thy word so kindly sent
 To raise us to thy throne,

 Return to thee, and sadly tell
 That we reject thy Son.
- 5 Oft as the precious seed is sown, Thy quickening grace bestow, That all, whose souls the truth receive, Its saving power may know.

1819. J. Cawood, a.



Quote of the Day

"Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory."

George S. Patton

Advent draws nigh..... Preparation, Expectation and Anticipation

November 27th, 2016 is Advent Sunday, the beginning of the Advent season. For many Christians unfamiliar with the liturgical year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Advent season. Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The History of Advent

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Advent Today

Today, the Advent season lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. (Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.)

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" (Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:2), as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah.

Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ's first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.



Thank You, God, For Everything

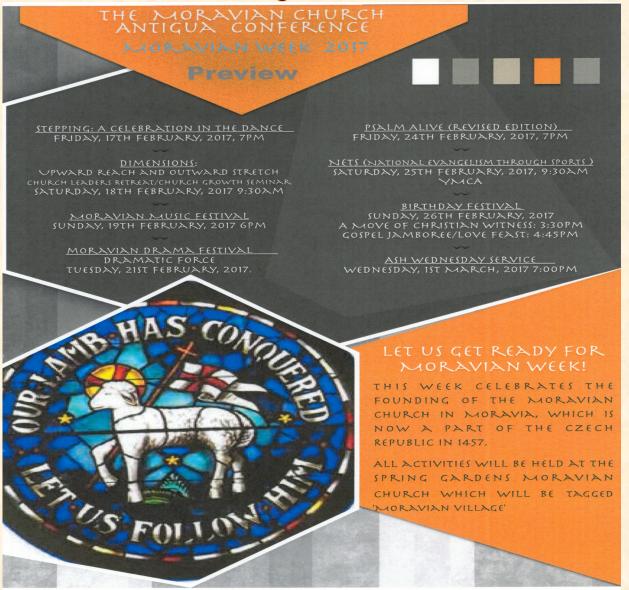
Thank you, God, for everything,
The big things and the small.
For "every good gift comes from God"...
The giver of them all.
And all too often we accept, without any thanks or praise,
The gifts God sends as blessings, each day in many ways.
And so at this Thanksgiving Time, we offer up a prayer...
To thank you, God, for giving us a lot more than our share.

First, thank you for the little things
That often come our way,
The things we take for granted
But don't mention when we pray,
The unexpected courtesy, the thoughtful, kindly deed,
A hand reached out to help us in the time of sudden need.
Oh, make us more aware, dear God, of little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet surprise"
From never-dreamed-of places.

Then, thank you for the "Miracles"
We are much too blind to see,
And give us new awareness of our many gifts from Thee,
And help us to remember that the Key of Life and Living
Is to make each prayer a Prayer of Thanks
And every day Thanksgiving

--Helen Steiner Rice

Moravian Church Antigua Conference at a glance



- ◆ The Moravian Church Antigua Conference will be conducting another "Church Growth" Seminar on Saturday, 12th November 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at the Tim O'Reilly Auditorium. Contact your individual Congregation to register for this event.
- The Chief Elders Service will be held on Sunday 13th November at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ The Conference is still offering lands for sale in New-field at a reasonable cost of EC\$5.00 per square foot. Interested persons may contact the office at 462-5956 or 562-5182 for further details.



Zion/Judges Hill Moravian Pastorate presents:

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Gospel Artistes Harvest Produce



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Children's

Sunday 20 Nov' 2016

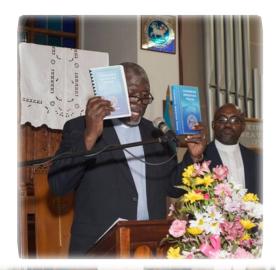
Potters Zion Moravian Church 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

pring a love offering!

All Donations & sales go towards the Moravian Church Haiti Appeal For more info call: 723-8908, 764-8843, 560-7042

Launching of The Moravian Church's E.W.F. P

Caribbean Hymnal.







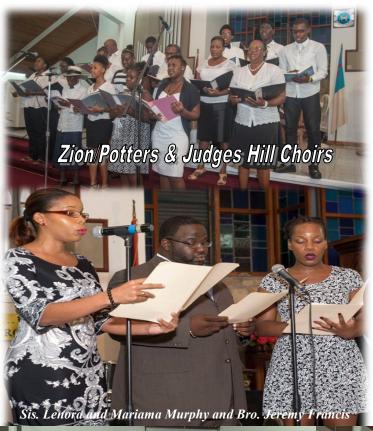






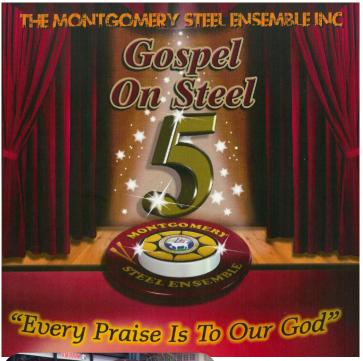














Reflections:

From The Captaín-Odette H. Joseph

"Every Praise Is To Our God"!

As our theme suggests, the members of the Montgomery Steel Ensemble give praise for the manifold blessings the Almighty has bestowed upon us. We give thanks for our nineteen years of existence and more so as we cele-

brate five (5) years of producing our **GOSPEL ON STEEL** concert. How can we not be we thankful for the gift of music of the steelpan! We proudly affirm that we have used our talent wisely and will continue to use it to spread the gospel through steelpan music.

For the past nineteen years, in addition to playing at numerous church events, the band remains a featured performer at weddings, concerts and other engagements which focus on exalting God through song. The band is an indispensable part of the music ministry at church on Sunday mornings and a much sought after delight at our annual Missionary Love Feast, Harvest festival, Moravian Hymn Festival and other important church events.

In October 2011, we hosted our first concert under the distinguished patronage of Reverend Dr. Cortroy Jarvis, Chairman, Provincial Elder's Conference (PEC). On that occasion Rev. Jarvis told us, "God has blessed you with talents and abilities for you to be a blessing to others. You must give God all praise and glory." On that first occasion the band shared centre stage with the internationally acclaimed gospel artiste, Rev. Nicole Ballosingh-Holder. It was an unforgettable experience!

Over the ensuing years, we have shared the spotlight with some of this country's best gospel artistes, among these, Christopher "Tambu" Herbert, Evangelist, Mellisa "Precious "Lee, Messenger Sean Daniell, violinists Xavier Strings, Caryll Warner and David Frank, saxophonist Ricardo Seales, vocalists Just Vessels, Assemblyman Handel Beckles, Zandra Baynes, Akeila "Kiki" Murphy-Bruce, Kimmoy Nimblett and Eastlyn Orr and others. These concerts all received rave reviews.

In June 2012, the band went on its first overseas mission tour to Barbados. There we performed in concert with the Moravian Messengers chorale, the toast of Barbados. The following year, 2013, the band visited Antigua as guests of the Moravian churches there and to share in the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Cana Moravian church, another awe- inspiring experience. That same year we were privileged to share centre stage with the world renowned male gospel sensation, Donnie Mc Clurkin, when he performed at the annual "In His Presence" Concert in Tobago.

The year 2014 was also a significant one for the band as we travelled to the United States of America as the honoured guests of the Trinidad and Tobago Alliance Inc, New York Chapter, and the Coral Reef Experience Inc. In New York the band participated in several events in commemoration of the 52nd Independence celebrations of Trinidad and Tobago.

Reflections Con'td from Page 8

Two of the band's mentors, Mrs. Beryl Jack and Ms. Zelma Cowie were recognized for their sterling contributions in the field of Education and Culture, while the band was honoured with a Humanitarian Award from the Dr. Susan Smith-Mc Kinney Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre for the band's humanitarian work to the residents of that Centre. As captain I too was presented with a Citation of The City of New York and an Award from The Trinidad and Tobago Alliance for "Leadership."

This year, 2016, the band's commitment to its outreach ministry saw us journey to Toco, Trinidad, to engage in mission work in the L'Anse Noire community. We spent the entire weekend ministering, particularly to the young persons in the community- Moravians and non-Moravians alike, urging them to assume a meaningful role in the life of their respective churches. The fellowship was indeed a humbling experience, marked as it was by a church service on the Sunday morning, led by resident pastor, Rev. Catherine Governor and culminating in a grand concert in the evening, attended by the L'Anse Noir community and environs with the blessing of Area Representative, Councillor Terry Rondon who was in attendance. We also had the privilege of distributing items of foodstuff and clothing to members of the community and school supplies to all children from both primary and secondary schools.

Indeed God has blessed us tremendously over the past nineteen years. We are happy to have walked the path that He has mapped out for us. Our journey has led us to minister locally, regionally and internationally. For this we give God thanks. Along the way we made new friends, who have now become part of the Ensemble family- Caryll Warner-violinist, Ricardo Seales- saxophonist and vocalists, Zandra Baynes, Akelia "KeKe" Murphy - Bruce and Brother Handel Beckles.

From inception, we have been blessed to have our own in-house Master of Ceremony in the person of Ms. Zelma Cowie who is also our Events Coordinator, Mrs. Beryl Jack who has remained our Advisor and inspiration, and of course our Arranger, Gerald "Blackie" Moses, whose musical genius is extraordinary. Special tribute must be paid to Mrs. Cynthia Daniel- White (now deceased) who also moulded us musically. May her soul rest in peace.

As we celebrate five years of our concert ministry, we are grateful for our strong support team: Roger Washington, videographer, Roycott Mc Millan and Ian Brebnor, traffic co-ordinators, Enez Joseph and Marcus Des Vignes, stage décor, Adrian Ewing, Stage Manager, Reginald Phillips, plants, Jeffery Joseph, George Williams and Michael Roberts, transportation, and ACTS our most efficient ushers. Special recognition must be paid to Superintendent Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts, Rev. Nevin Lewis and Rev. Patmore Smith for their constant support and encouragement.

The Montgomery Steel Ensemble could never have survived without the constant prayers and support of the Moravian congregations and without the support of our numerous patrons. Without you, there would be no us! Special words of appreciation must also be conveyed to Brother Junior Lawrence and Sisters Gwendolyn Lawrence, Cynthia Applewhite and the Prayer and Visitation team.

As Captain of the Montgomery Steel Ensemble, it has been an honour to perform the role of mentor to the young and talented members of the Montgomery Steel Ensemble. I commend them and thank them all for their tireless work over the past years. The road has not always been smooth but as children of God we press on and continue to walk by faith and not by sight, holding steadfast to the words expressed in the song, "Jesus Is the Rock on which I Stand". As we look forward to the future, it is our desire to attract more young persons to this music ministry so that the band's mission remains firm and secure. We look forward to the future knowing that our treasure is stored in heaven and that is where our reward will be. Nineteen years of existence; wonderful vears of concert ministry!

EVERY PRAISE IS TO OUR GOD!

Ί	en	ors
_		

Genelia Benjamin Tineesia Brebnor Sean Daniel Buddingh Cindy Hacket Ann Marie Johnson Ojav Richards

Double Second

Odette Joseph Tamara Joseph

Double Guitar

Cathy Ann Alleyne

Six Set Bass Dale Romeo

Four Pan Jarren Joseph

Percussionists

Canique Andrews Kerron Anthony Zandra Baynes Vel Phillips Derick Winchester

Musical Director

Gerald 'Blackie' Moses

Coving Memo



George Arthur Ramsay Sr. 27-01-1950 - 25-08-2016

Tribute

As we celebrate the life of our dear brother, Truly he was a man unlike any other; A husband, father, a friend indeed, Ordained by God and born to lead.

A servant and leader who served his Church; He was a steady hand, devoid of lurch. He loved life and lived it well. Oh, what a story his life could tell.

Thank you George for all that you have done; Thank you George for the laughter and the fun! Thank you George for your fearless advice, Rest in Peace, dear brother, it has truly been nice.



Written by: Sis. Elisa G. Hodge



- ◆ The PEC expresses sympathy on the passing of Mrs. Dorcas Kirby, the Aunt of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas, Rev. Algernon and Denise Lewis, Great Aunt of the Rev. Nevin Lewis and cousin of Pastor Elva Richards. The Funeral Service took place on Wednesday October 19, 2016 at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua.
- The PEC expresses sympathy on the passing of Ms. Victoria Chato, the Sister of the Rev. Esther Moore-Roberts. She passed into the nearer presence of God on Wednesday October 19, 2016 in Canada.

The Funeral Service took place at Westview Bible Church in Montreal, Canada, on Friday October 28, 2016. A Memorial Service will be held in Tobago on a date to be announced.

◆ The PEC expresses sympathy on the passing of retired Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Jacobs. The funeral service was held on Saturday November 5th, 2016 at Friedensthal Moravian Church in Christiansted, St. Croix. The viewing was at 9.00 am and the Service of Thanksgiving at 10.00a.m where a packed congregation of hundreds of worshippers were in attendance.

Let us remember the family members in our prayers.



FURLOUGH

The following members of Staff will proceed on furlough during 2016:

- ◆ Rev. Walton Frederick from August 1 to November 30, 2016
- ◆ Rev. Algernon Lewis from August 15 to December 14, 2016.
- ◆ Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford from August 15 to December 14, 2016.

Election of New Lay Member of PEC

Brother Anselm Richards of the Tobago Conference was duly elected as the new Lay Member of the Provincial Elders Conference by mail ballot. When the ballots were counted on November 03, 2016, Brother Richards received the 2/3 majority needed to be elected on the PEC. Congratulations and God Bless!





Birthday Greetings for the month of November is extended to:

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





Anniversary Greeting
for the month of
November is
extended to:

Bro. Alban & Cynthia St. Hill

24

Joke of the Day

A mom texts, "Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?"

He texts back, "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later."

The mom texts him, "It's ok, don't worry about it.

I'll ask your sister, love you too."



During an impassioned sermon about death and final judgment, the pastor said forcefully, "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement."

Glancing down at the front pew, he noticed a man with a big smile on his face. The minister repeated his point louder. "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement!"

The man nodded and smiled even more. This really got the preacher wound up. He pounded the pulpit emphatically when he came to the ultimatum: "Each member of this church is going to die and face judgement!!!"

Though everyone else in the congregation was looking somber, the man in front continued to smile. Finally the preacher stepped off the platform, stood in front of the man and shouted, "I said each member of this church is going to die!"

The man grinned from ear to ear. After the service was over, the preacher made a beeline for the man. "I don't get it," the preacher said in frustration. "Whenever I said, 'Each member of this church is going to die,' your smile got bigger. Why?"

"I'm not a member of this church," the man replied.



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