

And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. The Information KNOCKED DOWN, BUT NOT OUT And Jesus answered him, Answered Him, Answered Him Answere Answered him, Answere Answer

Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis Chairman of PEC

See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. Isaiah 48:10

Sugar Ray Leonard, (famous American Boxer) in his Autobiography entitled, THE BIG FIGHT: MY LIFE IN AND OUT OF THE RING says, what distinguishes a great fighter from a fighter is the will to win. "It's that individual who's able to reach down into that hidden reservoir of strength that we all have but rarely activate," he states:

Leonard says he also always brought his hands together in prayer before matches. But he didn't pray for a personal victory, but for everyone's safety.

He had to overcome sexual abuse and alcoholism: When Leonard was a young man, he experienced two incidents of sexual abuse – once by an Olympic coach and also by a boxing fan that frequented the gym. He says he publicly opened up about it because it allowed him to get rid of the pain that haunted him for about three decades. Leonard states, "It was kind of a paradox. If you think about me as a fighter, I could knock those guys out. But I didn't. Why? One - because I was getting cash and training for the Olympics. And I trusted this guy to get close to the Olympics."

Leonard also struggled with alcohol, which had grave repercussions: "I didn't know how to be a father, be a husband." He says. He ultimately went to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every day, and comments, "I know if I had not taken this step to go to AA, to surrender and drop my guard, and take the pain of releasing this toxin in my stomach and my chest, I would be dead."

Sugar Ray Leonard became an American hero after capturing the gold medal in 1976 Montreal Olympics. He was seen as the anointed heir to the throne vacated by Muhammad Ali.

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And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of

Luke 4: vs 4.



God.

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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Knocked Down, But Not Out Cont'd from Page 1

Sugar Ray was resilient, fearless, unwilling to accept failure and so he fought on in spite of the challenges. Our watchword for April 02, 2017, speaks of a God who is willing to accompany us through all the changing scenes of life. That is why the Psalmist so emphatically declared, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me". Listen to the watchword, See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

An explanation of a few key words in our text will help tremendously. The word Affliction means: *adversity*, *hardship*, *distress*, *trouble*, *difficulty*, *disaster*, *suffering*, *misfortune*, *sorrow*, *misery*, *tribulation*, *pain or trauma*. Furnace means *heat or fire* Tested means *tried*, *dragged through or pressed*.

You see the real test of your love for your husband/wife, boyfriend/girlfriend, friend/colleague or family is not when things are going good, but when there is a crisis; not when things are going good, but when the bottom falls out of everything. The real test is whether you'll be there or not.

God called a people out of darkness into light. They were nobody and he took them up and made them somebody. It was as if God bent over backwards to bring them into relationship with him. Once they were settled, they got fat and felt that they were masters of all they possessed. Indeed, they behaved as if they were Monarchs of all they surveyed. God had expended much on them and brought them to a place of safety and security and then all hell broke loose. They became disobedient and began to worship their own gods. Verses 4 and 5 of Isaiah 48 says,

For I knew how stubborn you were; your neck muscles were iron, your forehead was bronze. ⁵ Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, 'My images brought them about;

Don't bite the hand that feeds you. You have some very ungrateful people. They turned to other gods, gods of wood and stone to worship. Imagine that! God could have destroyed them and start again, but God was fighting for his glory. Listen to verse 9: For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely.

2

And then the crowning text:

See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. Why?

¹¹ For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.

If or when we are knocked down, we must not remain on the ground. In other words, we must not settle and say we are knocked out. **Our Faith Resilient**, **Resolute and constantly being Redefined**.

Our Faith must be Resilient---It means that we are able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions. In other words, we must rebound or spring back to our feet and adjust easily from any misfortune. Sometimes, life hits us some curve balls we never anticipated and they blur our vision for awhile. We serve an awesome God and whatever happens, God is able to turn your darkness into light. He is able to reestablish and reposition you to the place where you belong. Don't allow the devil to play on your mind and tell you that your God doesn't care.

Things will still happen but listen what the word of God says, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed". (2 Cor. 4:8-9).

Your Faith must be resilient. Yes, the storms will roar about you, but we serve a God who is bigger than any storm. Work your Faith and God will work with you. Your Faith must be active. James says, Faith without works is dead.

Not only must our Faith be Resilient, but it must be Resolute

To be Resolute means to be steadfast, faithful, that is, we must be unswerving and loyal. We need to be firm in our Faith. Even when we are knocked off course, we need to keep trying. In spite of the setbacks and failures, we need to hold on to Jesus. It is said that a Set Back is a Set Up for a Come Back. In writing to the Church at Ephesus Paul echoed these words,

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Knocked Down, But Not Out, Cont'd from Page 2

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11).

Be Resolute in your Faith no matter what. There is a song which encourages us, Hold to God's Unchanging Hand. In the midst of everything if there is one hand you can hold is God's.

Another Song Writer puts it this way:

My faith has found a resting place, Not in device or creed; I trust the ever-living One, His wounds for me shall plead.

Refrain:

I need no other argument, I need no other plea, It is enough that Jesus died, And that He died for me

Enough for me that Jesus saves, This ends my fear and doubt; A sinful soul I came to Him, He'll never cast me out.

Not only must our Faith be Resilient and Resolute, but our Faith must be Re-defined.

To Re-define means to give new meaning; to see things differently. You are confined only by the walls you build yourself. There is a Gambian proverb which says, "If your only tool is a hammer, you will see every problem as a nail".

When you commit your life to Jesus people will always remind you of where you are from and who you were yesterday. When you are reminded, don't deny it. Yes, let them know you were there but let them know you don't live there anymore. Use your past as a Refewrence and not a Residence. Do not allow anyone to steal your Joy in the Lord. God has brought you this far and he will not abandon you now.

A Rwandan Proverb says, "If you are building a house and a nail breaks, do you stop building or do you change the nail ?" When you redefine your faith remember the words of the Song Writer:

3

God is my strong salvation, no enemy I fear; He hears my supplication, dispelling all my care; If He, my Head and Master, defend me from above, What pain or what disaster can part me from His love?

I fully am persuaded and joyfully declare I'm never left unaided, my Father hears my prayer; His comforts never fail me, He stands at my right hand; When tempests fierce assail me, they're calm at His command.

So your Faith must be active and dynamic. It must be able to move mountains, however tall; however powerful.

Our Faith must be Resilient Our Faith must be Resolute ... Our Faith must be Re-defined

What about your Faith? You might be knocked down but not out. Hold to God's unchanging hand.



pec meeting

The PEC will meet in the Trinidad Conference from April 23 to 25, 2017.

Let us remember the Members of PEC in prayer.



He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Matthew 28: 6 (KJV)

RESOLUTION 21: A VISION OF EDUCATION

By The Rev. Dr. Errol Connor

Renown as the Father of Modern education, a Bishop of the Ancient Unitas Fratrum (Moravian Church), John Amos Comenius had a right appreciation of knowledge and understood emphatically that God is the only true source of wisdom. Bishop Comenius admitted no "alternate facts" to truth. In fact, the Bishop believed that we should "teach all things to all persons from all points of view." In essence he believed that we can discover truth through exploration, discussion, dialogue and sharing. Indeed, wherever the teacher/ learner transaction takes place, be it a classroom, the home, the church, the street corner, the ball field, or human travel through time and space within the vastness of creation. the Maker of heaven and earth, the Creator of the universe leads into truth. For the Bishop, the Bible and creation were the two great books (teaching texts) of God. Is this not what we confess, when we declare that God is good and His mercy is everlasting and that His truth endures through all generations? Or that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all; if we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship with His Son?

Well Moravians, as history and our present endeavours make clear, have been a leader in education. Education as mission and mission as education is in our DNA. We seek to understand anew this mission, as we thoughtfully and meaningfully respond to present needs and aspirations of our sons and daughters, brothers and Sisters, friends and neighbours in the Caribbean region and within our Province.

Resolution 21 of the Provincial Synod of July 2015 gave the PEC a mandate to provide affordable, holistic Christian education to students of the Caribbean and beyond. The goal being fourfold:

- To improve the level and quality of life through education.
- To prepare persons for service in the church and the community.
- To make quality education to a wider cross section of the region and the world and;
- To specialize in a programme of studies which is unique the proposed Moravian College (e.g. Math Education

Now for over seven years (7), the now Bishop Conrad Spencer has been in the vanguard of pursuing the vision of the Moravian EWI Province having a tertiary education institution. Together, with layman, Professor Vanere Goodwin, he has led annual Math Enrichment programmes in Antigua with excellent results. Therefore, it was necessary that under their leadership that PEC staged an Education Symposium to bring together leaders and representatives from across the Province to connect the various dots of this vision and to begin the process of fully executing the mandate of our Synod. The symposium was held at the Provincial Headquarters, Cashew Hill, Antigua, March 7-9, 2017. Several presentations were made relative to the proposed college, the field of education, available resources, challenges and opportunities. Group work and brainstorming activity occurred and several things were affirmed and the road map to the fulfilment of the vision was further defined. Among the things affirmed were:

- Liberal arts college based on the needs of our region; the common good and the general mission of the church. We have had nothing since 1958 (a reference here to Spring Gardens Teachers College which served the region).
- The need for an interim Dean and Advisory Board
- That the initial curriculum offerings should include Math Education, Family Life, Pastoral/Theological Education, Education, and Leadership/Management.
- That good Christian education is serious business, and as a church with a rich history in education this should be a ministry we offer.
- That the church's philosophy of education should be the same from preschool to tertiary.
- That all necessary work to secure widely approved affiliate and accredited status be earnestly pursued. This includes collaboration with Bethlehem Moravian College in Jamaica.
- That a five (5) year strategic plan be developed to include: size of project, goals and timelines, governance structure, cost estimates of buildings and operations, staffing and recruitment, and the technology needed to drive this vision.

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Hymn of the Month for April, 2017 by Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts Provincial Director

Our hymn for the month of April is # 332 – *Thou art the way; to thee alone*. It was written by George W. Doane in 1824. He was an eighteenth century Ameri-



can Episcopal bishop. The name of the assigned tune is *Epworth* and it is derived from one of Charles Wesley's melodies.

This hymn is based on the words of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of St. John, chapter 14 and verse 6. Jesus says of himself, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one*

comes to the Father except through me." In each verse the hymn writer expands on how each claim which Christ makes can be reflected in our lives. The first stanza shows Christ to be the way through which we can escape both sin and death. At the same time we are reminded that Jesus is also the way that leads to God the Father. In the second verse, we examine how Jesus can be seen as the truth. We live in an age when the answer to the question - what is truth - is dependent on each individual and what is considered to be convenient. However, in the second verse we see that when we embrace Jesus as truth, he imparts divine wisdom to us which also influences our minds and hearts. The third verse highlights Jesus as the life. As we observe Easter during this month, this verse is a timely reminder that because Jesus' tomb is empty then those who have placed their trust in Jesus can live with the hope that death doesn't have the final word. Jesus, the life, does! In the final stanza all three images are highlighted and we are comforted by the thought that there is an eternal treasure that awaits those who accept Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life.

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

Thou art the way; to thee alone From sin and death we flee; And he who would the Father seek Must seek him, Lord, by thee.

Thou art the truth; thy word alone True wisdom can impart; Thou only canst inform the mind And purify the heart. 3 Thou art the life; the rending tomb Proclaims thy conquering arm;And those who put their trust in thee Nor death nor hell shall harm. 5

Thou art the way, the truth, the life: Grant us that way to know, That truth to keep, that life to win, Whose joys eternal flow.

Thou Art The Way



Furlough

The Rev. Andrew Roberts of the Barbados Conference requested and was granted Furlough from February 1 to May 30, 2017.



The PEC offers its prayers and requests the Provincial family to lift up the brother of the Rev. Nigel Daniel in prayer. Cotiene Daniel who resides in Maryland, USA is hospitalized. He had a massive stroke on March 01, 2017. He is recovering slowly in that he is able to speak and move his upper and lower limbs.

Let us remember and keep the family in our prayers.



Unity Watchword for 2017

The Provincial Board of the European Continental Province has according to custom drawn a Watchword for each province and undertaking of the Unity.

The Watchword drawn for the Eastern West Indies Province for the year 2017 is the one drawn on December 18, 2017 taken from Psalm 105: 08, "He is mindful of His covenant forever, of the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations" (NRSV). This Text is to be used as often as possible throughout the year as a reminder of God's faithfulness and promise to us.

Unity Prayer Watch 2017

The Eastern West Indies Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from 12.00 am April 03 – Midnight April 15, 2017. The Schedule is as follows: Conferences are asked to observe the time allotted for our members to engage in the unbroken prayer chain. This prayer meeting began on August 13, 1727 when the Moravian Church had its Pentecost experience. The Church was so much on fire that the Prayer meeting lasted for 100 unbroken years. Let us therefore encourage our members to be in prayer, as we continue to seek God's guidance and direction for our Church and indeed our lives.

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Name of Conference/ Mission	From	То
Grenada	12:00a.m. April 03, 2017	8:00a.m. April 03, 2017
Tobago	8:00a.m. April 03, 2017	8:00a.m. April 05, 2017
Trinidad	8:00a.m. April 05, 2017	8:00a.m. April 06, 2017
Barbados	8.00a.m. April 06, 2017	8.00p.m. April 08, 2017
Virgin Islands	8:00p.m. April 08, 2017	8:00a.m. April 11, 2017
St. Kitts	8:00a.m. April 11, 2017	12:00 Midnight April 12, 2017
Antigua	Midnight April 12,2017	Midnight April 15, 2017



Birthday Greetings for the month of April is extended to:

Bro. Elroy Christopher	4
Sis. Catherine Governor	4
Sis. Dorothy Graham	7
Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	8
Sis. Rosalind Prince	26
Bro. Mikie Roberts	27
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Anniversary Greetings for the month of April is extended to:

Bro. Rudolph Roberts & Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts 22

Bro. Elroy Christopher & Sis. Jane Thomas- Christopher 27

Commemorative License Plates

In this the Centennial Year of the transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States, the Moravian Church celebrates the 560th Anniversary of Unitas Fratrum.

The Moravian Church Virgin Islands Conference introduces our very own specialized License Plates commemorating the 560th Anniversary of the Church.

These beautiful plates were designed to remind us of our Christian Witness in the community, as Moravians, and the history of our legacy in Education as we continue to **Follow the Lamb**.

The Commemorative Plates highlight the Moravian lamb with a picturesque Virgin Islands background. The letters **MVI** represents Moravian Virgin Islands. The Moravian Church is spelled out at the bottom of the Plate with "*Since 1457*" below it.

The first vehicle, a Toyota Venza was officially registered at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) on February 28, 2017, and the new commemorative plate affixed on March 20, 2017.

Members of the Moravian family have been ordering their plates using significant numbers in their lives as their plate number. It will be used on St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John.

Frames for the plates will also be available soon.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!



7

Front View



Rear View

Rev. Eulencine Christopher Superintendent Moravian Church VI Conference



Our deepest sympathies... to the Lynch Family on the loss of our dearly Beloved Eileen Etinoff-Lynch

Earl Nightingale once said, "The Key that unlocks energy is desire. It's also the Key to a long and interesting life. If we expect to create any drive, any real force within ourselves, we have to get excited." I believe that desire had been at the heart of Sis. Eileen Lynch's life. She had a desire for God in her own unique way.

Today, we thank God for Jesus and the blood that heals and makes us whole. We thank God for the transforming message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which has made a difference in the life of Sis. Lynch. When my family and I were called to Pastor the Spring Gardens Congregation in November 1994, I met a giant of a woman in the Church Office. She was my storehouse of knowledge. Indeed, she schooled me on the Customs and Practices at Spring Gardens for which I was and I am eternally grateful. I served with her for 14 years at Spring Gardens. She played every conceivable role in the Spring Gardens Congregation. Our relationship continued up to the time of her passing. I will always cherish those moments.

The Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) will miss her very much. Knowing her artistry in the kitchen, she became the Caterer for almost every event held at the Provincial Headquarters. She provided ALL of the meals since the end of 2007 to the time of her passing for all of the meetings at the Provincial Headquarters. In fact, she was already booked to provide the meals for the Moravian Education Symposium held from March 7-9, 2017 at the Provincial Headquarters, unfortunately she passed on March 2nd, 2017. The food was always sumptuous and delicious.

Sister Lynch was also a family woman. Indeed, she was a God fearing woman. She was a model to her immediate and extended family. In July 2016 when she celebrated her 50th birthday I said to her; "Remember, that it is God who has brought you this far. I challenge you therefore, never to lose your zeal and determination to tell people of the love of God, through Jesus Christ. Our young people are crying out for guidance and are looking for role models. You must be that model. You need to model before our people, what God would have them to become". She never wavered from that position. She always had a word of God's love and faithfulness. Now that she has gone on before us, she expects us to continue to be the light in our darkened world. The Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) will miss her very much. Knowing her artistry in the kitchen, she became the Caterer for almost every event held at the Provincial Headquarters.

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On behalf of my family, The PEC, Bishops Lewis and Spencer, our six (6) Superintendents: Patmore Smith, Esther Moore-Roberts, Vera Waithe, Hilton Joseph, Eulencine Christopher and Bonnie Smith, we express sincere condolences to her husband Kenroy and children, Yendie, Nikkei, Chantie-Clare and Ken-nyse. She was a good person. The Church stands with you and our prayers will forever ascend to God Almighty on your behalf.

God Bless you.

Best Regards

Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis Chairman of PEC March 20, 2017

Resolution 21: A Vision For Education Cont'd from Page 4

- That there are available funds, raised by Faith Moravian Church on St Croix to pursue the construction of two classrooms.
- That Old Gracehill be the site of the Moravian College. (Participants made a visit to the proposed site after lunch on the second day.)
- That a building committee should be put in place immediately, and that architectural plans be completed soonest, and a project manager be identified to oversee construction.

Towards the end of the second day, participants were divided into four working groups to discuss and develop curriculum recommendations in the following areas: Math Education, Pastoral/Theology, Education, and Management/Administration. Significant progress was made in these group sessions. Reports from the groups were made in plenary and copies of the reports have been sent on to the PEC for review and further action. Thus the Province is being called to action and active support of the vision of a renewed and encompassing thrust in mission education as mandated by Synod.

One look at the Resolution 21 mandate of the Provincial Synod would note that we are a little behind the timeline given in that resolution. What was proposed as the 2016 Phase 1 is now being most earnestly pursued, and Phase 2 (2017) will not take place before 2018. However, coming out of the symposium we have the updated timelines covering a five year period. The details of this update will be made available to all in the May issue of the Information. For now let's rise to the occasion and rally to the call to renewed history making pursuits in mission education, for God and community.



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

Condolence

9

The Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) expresses sympathy on the passing of Ms. Viola "Tootsie" Mayers. Ms. Viola "Tootsie" Mayers was the mother Mrs. Deborah Challenger and the grandmother of Ms. Shanna Challenger. She passed into the nearer presence of God on the evening of the February 18, 2017, at home in Barbados surrounded by her immediate family and pastor. The funeral service was held on Wednesday March 8th at 2pm at the Calvary Moravian Church in Barbados. The family would like to thank all those who have offered condolences during this difficult time.

Let us remember them in our prayers.



A preacher of the old school was describing the events of Judgment Day and, of course, he used Biblical phrases whenever he could. "Oh, my friends," he shouted, "imagine the suffering of the sinners as they find themselves cast into the outer darkness, removed from the presence of the Lord and given to eternal flames. My friends, at such a time there will be weeping, wailing and a great gnashing of teeth!" At this point, one of the elders of the congregation interrupted.

"But Reverend," he said, "what if one of those hopeless sinners has no teeth?"

The preacher crashed his fist on the pulpit, "My friends, the Lord is not put out by details. Rest assured ... teeth will be provided!"

Moravian Church EWIP Photos from Education Symposium held March 7-9, 2017



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