



Jesus answered, "It is written:
'Man shall not live on bread
alone, but on every word that
comes from the mouth of God.
Matthew 4 vs. 4

The Information

Stay Focused!

January, 2018

As we gather for our final worship service for 2017, allow me to welcome those of you who have come from near and far. You are in the right place. Turn up your cups; your buckets; your drums or whatever containers you have for a blessing. Our text comes from Hebrews 11:39-12:2:



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis
Chairman of PEC

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

12- Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2017 was a year filled with mixed feelings and emotions. The planet continued warming at an alarming rate. The civil war in Syria, which has now claimed about half a million lives, raged on. The gun violence epidemic persisted unabated in the Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago with 490 murders and Jamaica with 1265 murders up to the end of October seem to be the murder capitals in the Caribbean. In Antigua and Barbuda, we have not escaped that scourge. Too many murders have taken place in Antigua for 2017 and while some persons have indicated that a few of the murders are gang related and some others are vagrants, a murder is a murder. Each life is important, so if twenty persons have been murdered in the country, its 20 persons who have mothers and fathers and siblings. It is 20 murders too much. Sweetes seems to have taken on something that is so uncharacteristic of our village with a number of murders.

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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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"Advance the Kingdom" -Live as Kingdom Citizens

Hurricanes Irma and Maria ran a path of destruction never before seen or experienced in the Caribbean. Barbuda was first decimated and that started what is the worst natural disaster ever in these parts. St. Maarten was destroyed. Anguilla, St. Thomas, St. John, Tortola, St. Croix, Dominica, Puerto Rico and Turks and Caicos Islands were all decimated by one of the two deadly hurricanes. What Irma left, Maria cleaned up.

As a people, we seem to be more and more divided. Rather than looking out for each other; rather than drawing closer and closer to each other; rather than being our brothers and sisters keeper; rather than loving each other, we seem to find a way to inflict pain and hurt on one another. Rather than loving each other, the hearts of men/women have become more and more desperately wicked.

In 2017, I had my health challenges myself. I damaged my back. I had my L 5 vertebrae fractured and had to seek medical attention overseas. On May 20th when I got home from treatment in New York, face book was alight with the news that I was dead. I never responded. I watched. It depressed me for part of the day. I was getting calls from all over including my wife, who called to ask me what happen to me. Thank God! I'm still alive.

What about you? What has been your journey during the year? You might have had your high and low moments. You might have had your triumphs and your defeats. The fact that you are here says that God is not done with you yet. God has something in store for you.

We sometimes miss the great opportunities of life because we get sidetracked. I once heard the tale of a talented and gifted bloodhound in England that started a hunt by chasing a **full-grown male deer**. During the chase a **fox** crossed his path, so he began now to chase the fox. A **rabbit** crossed his hunting path, so he began to chase the rabbit. After chasing the rabbit for a while, a tiny field **mouse** crossed his path, and he chased the mouse to the corner of a farmer's barn. The bloodhound had begun the hunt chasing a prized male deer for his master and wound up barking at a tiny mouse. It is a rare human being who can do three or four different things at a time—moving in different directions.

Hebrews 12 Verse 1 says, “**Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us . . . run.**” So the first motivation I want us to see is this cloud of witnesses. Who are they and what does their witnessing mean? They are the saints that have lived and died so valiantly by faith in chapter 11. Saints like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and all those who suffered and died, “of whom the world was not worthy.”

But what does their “witnessing” refer to? Does it refer to their watching us from heaven? Or does it refer their witnessing to us by their lives? The word “witness” can have either meaning: the act of seeing something, or the act of telling something. Which is it here? I think it is the act of telling. The verb form of this word “witness” (*martureo*) is used five times in Hebrews 11 (in verses 2, 4 [twice], 5, 39) and always refers to the giving of a (confirming) testimony rather than the mere watching of an event.

So, I take the witnesses of Hebrews 12:1 to be the saints who have run the race before us, and have gathered, along the marathon route to say, through the testimony of their lives, “By faith, I finished. You too can finish the race!” The cloud of witnesses surrounding us suggests that they have been a good example for us to follow. They shone their lights brightly and so we too are challenged to shine so that others will see and glorify our Father which is in heaven. Our Text says, that the men of Faith were commended, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. It is important to note God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. So you and I have a part to play to bring them to perfection. Live Good! Stay Focus!

The text again says; These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

12- Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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Permit me then to make the following points:

Get rid of sin and everything that entangles us:-

Chapter 12 v 1 'let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles'. Get rid of bitterness, anger, lies, gossip, deception, hatred, stealing...Listen how Paul addressed the matter with the Ephesian church, 'Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you' (EP.4:31-32).

Get running the race:-

Chapter 12 v 1 'And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us' ...endure pain, suffering, disappointment, shame, heartache...Running the race requires perseverance. It requires that you run against the odds. It requires that you never give up no matter what.

Get right with Jesus:-

Chapter 12 v 2... 'fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith'. Seek first the Kingdom of God-Matt. 6:33; You are the light of the world, a city that is set...-Matt. 5:14-15; I came not to call the righteous, but...Luke 5:32; If you are get right with Jesus, you have to speak the truth for He says in John 8:32, '...You will know the truth and the truth will set you free'. As 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness".

As you enter into 2018, turn a new page.

Resolve to be a better person.

Resolve to let the Peace of God reign in your heart.

Resolve to walk aright with God no matter what.

Resolve stay focused and keep your eyes on Jesus.

Resolve to love your brothers and sisters.

Resolve to forgive past infractions and put aside every sin that has weighed you down.

Resolve to be a witness for Jesus wherever you go.

So, let us lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin, which so easily entangles us, and let us run with Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

Get rid of sin and everything that entangles us

Get running the race

Get right with Jesus

Keep Focused as you enter into 2018 and

God Bless you.

Rites of the Moravian Church

As we begin the new year it is good for us to remind ourselves that the rites of the Moravian Church are **Confirmation, Marriage, and Ordination**. Celebration of the rites follows a liturgical form set forth in the hymnal. They are meant to be used as a means of affirming the Christian faith and dedicating oneself to a way of life consistent with that faith. The clergy are trained and set apart to administer these rites as servants of God and ministers of the Church.

The Surplice

The Moravian Church believes in and seeks to practice the priesthood of all believers. Thus there is an equality in our life together. However, the ordained clergy have been trained and set apart for a special purpose within the sacramental life of the church.

During the celebration of Baptism and Holy Communion, Moravian ministers wear a white robe called a surplice. The surplice is worn to signify what the person is doing and not who the person is. The individual's human identity is covered to symbolize the Savior's righteousness.

Thus the validity of the Baptism and Communion is not dependent upon the character of the one who administers it, but upon the character of the Lord who commissioned it! The surplice may also be worn by the minister when participating in marriages or confirmations. It is a visible symbol that, in the rite which is being performed, the blessing ultimately comes not from the church but from God.

Hymn of the Month for January, 2018

by Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts, Provincial Director of Music



We give thanks to God for bringing us through to the start of a new year. As we welcome 2018, our hymn of the month for January #278 ***Awake our souls, away, our fears.*** The hymn was written by Isaac Watts in 1707. The tune that has been assigned is named ***Deustuorum Militum.***

We begin this year with a hymn of encouragement in which we are being reminded that the living out of our faith is very much like a race. Runners often get discouraged and may feel tempted to quit. The same is true for believers who are running the heavenly race. The words of this hymn remind us that even though we may get tired God will give us the strength we need to keep on running. When we have refreshed ourselves with the spiritual drink that God provides, then not only will we continue running, but like the eagle we will soar to new heights. As we begin this new year might the words of this hymn motivate us to keep on running the Christian race as we live from day to day in 2018.

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

Awake, our souls, away, our fears!
Let every trembling thought be gone!
Awake, and run the heavenly race,
And put a cheerful courage on.

2 True, 'tis a strait and thorny road,
And mortal spirits tire and faint;
But they forget the mighty God
That feeds the strength of every saint.

3 O mighty God, thy matchless power
Is ever new and ever young,
And firm endures, while endless years
Their everlasting circles run.

4 From thee, the ever-flowing spring,
Our souls shall drink a fresh supply;
While such as trust their native strength
Shall melt away, and droop, and die.

5 Swift as the eagle cuts the air,
We'll mount aloft to thine abode;
On wings of love our souls shall fly,
Nor tire along the heavenly road.

1707. I. Watts.

278 Awake Our Souls Away

1707, I. Watts

DEUSTUORUM MILITUM

French Church Melody
from the Grenoble
Antiphoner, 1868

L.M.

1. A - wake, our souls, a - way, our fears! Let ev - ery trem - bling thought be gone! A -
2. True, 'tis a strait and thorn - y road, And mor - tal spir - its tire and faint; But
3. O migh - ty God, thy match - less power Is ev - er new and ev - er young, And
4. From thee, the ev - er - flow - ing spring, Our souls shall drink a fresh sup - ply; While
5. Swift as the eag - le cuts the air, We'll mount a - loft to thine a - bode; On

wake, and run the heaven - ly race, And put a cheer - ful cour - age on.
they for - get the migh - ty God That feeds the strength of ev - ery saint.
firm en - dures, while end - less years Their ev - er - last - ing cir - cles run.
such as trust their na - tive strength Shall melt a - way, and droop, and die.
wings of love our souls shall fly, Nor tire a - long the heaven - ly road.

EWIP Unity Mission Conference Report 2017

The 3rd Unity Mission Conference was held in the beautiful and historic Cape Town South Africa, from November 15-20. Approximately 200 delegates from 35 nations representing the majority of the Unity gathered to engage in networking, reflection, deliberation and inspiration for action under the theme, "Moravian Unity in Mission: Giving Heed to God's Call in the 21st Century. The venue for the conference was the comfortable Garden Court Hotel nestled between a spectacular view of the mountains on one side and sea on the other.

Nine conference papers were presented

- ♦ Mission and Identity in the Moravian church 18th and 19th century
- ♦ Congregational Mission in the Ancient Moravian Church
- ♦ Congregational Mission in a Globalized Moravian Church
- ♦ Mission of the Church from the Reformation to Edinburg 1910
- ♦ Mission of the Church in Early Church and Middle Ages until the Reformation
- ♦ World Mission from 1910 to 2010
- ♦ Mission and Culture: Moravian mission between Communion and community
- ♦ Doing mission today: Martyrdom, Conversion, Un-Churched People, Social Action, Post-church people
- ♦ Spirituality of Mission: Call, Approach, Preparation

There were eleven workshops of which participants chose 4.

- Refugees and Immigrants
- Contextualised Theology
- Sustainable mission models
- Women and mission
- Youth in Mission
- Caribbean Worship Experience and the Pentecostal impact on the Moravian Church
- Mission in the East African context
- The missional church

- Communicating the Good news
- Moravian Treasures Common Curriculum
- The World Council of Churches

As a delegation we found these sessions well researched, educational and stimulating. The conference also allowed for fellowship with members of the South African province through Sunday morning worship and a musical afternoon at Moravian Chapel. There was an excursion day with a three option choice of tours to Mamre, Genadendal, and Cape Peninsula. The conference also included a music and mission singstunde and closed with proposals, resolutions, closing service and Holy Communion.

Mission has always been our Moravian identity. We therefore encourage every member, clergy, and laity of our church to renew the passion and commitment towards being a missional church. Let us recognize there are missions to be done right in our own communities and across the province.

We also encourage the province to:

- Not always focus on what we don't have, but affirm, celebrate and use what we have
- Create the social platform for sharing about missions
- Be intentional in involving our youth in mission work
- Pursue business mission enterprises

Submitted by EWIP Delegates & Observers

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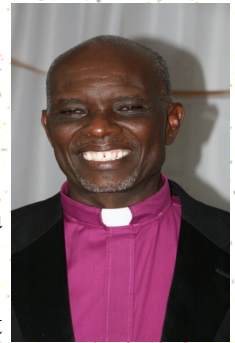
Quote of the Day

"Time is your most precious gift because you only have a set amount of it. You can make more money, but you can't make more time."

"Advance the Kingdom" -Live as Kingdom Citizens



Let Fear Give Way to Hope



When Christ was born in Bethlehem more than two thousand years ago, it was a time of hopes and fears. Christmas 2017 is also a time of hopes and fears.

As we reflect on the Christmas narrative in the New Testament and as we reflect on our experiences of Christmases past, we come to the realization that Christmas is about more than a little baby born in Bethlehem. For Christians, it focuses on the action in that ancient City of David, but it is connected to many cities around the world and speaks to every city, hamlet and village in our world today.

Let us recall some of the fears and hopes that would have existed at that first Christmas. Mary and Joseph though upright, God-fearing people, must have feared that people would question their integrity as someone put it, "Will folks understand? Will they know that what is done is of God? What will they think of us now? What will they think of my judgment in bringing Mary here in this place under these circumstances?" But they also had hope. Hope in what God had promised because they knew the truth of what was unfolding in their lives as part of God's plan for them and for the world.

The Wise men had fears, too. Fears that they had lost their way. Had they been misled by the star they were following. Would they be laughed out of Herod's court as fools on a silly expedition? But they also had hopes that they would find the baby born King of the Jews and would be able to present their gifts and worship him.

King Herod also had fears when the Wise Men turned up at his palace. Is it really true that someone has been born who will supplant me? What is this threat to my rule of which these people are telling me? Before the wise men appeared, Herod had hoped to maintain the security of his present position. After they had brought their shocking message of a new King of the Jews being born, he hoped in a strategy of killing all first born boys that would keep him in power.

Fast forward to Christmas 2017. Even as we think of the family of Mary and Joseph we are rightly led to think of Christmas as a time for families to be together and to share the joys of being family. It is a wonderful time for us to pause and experience the security of home and the love and unity of family.

As we hear again the story of Mary and Joseph being turned away even from the inn because there was no room for them, as we hear of Jesus having nowhere to lay his head, let us give thought to the many persons in Caribbean have to seek lodging this Christmas as a result of the two devastating hurricanes which have visited many of our islands; let us spare a thought for families which have been dispersed as a result of these catastrophes; let us think of those who have lost so much and those who have lost everything material. Can they have anything to hope in? Yes, Jesus is the hope of the world. Therefore, let us open our hearts and our homes to some of them this Christmas even as they live in fear of what the future will hold for them. Let us share with them and with all the world that Jesus is truly the hope of the world; he can overcome all our fears and troubles not just in a spiritual sense, but in temporal existence as well.

Finally, we cannot escape that message of the angels, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men. As we approach this Christmas the world holds its breath in fear as the leaders of the United States of America and the Republic of North Korea threaten each other with what could inevitably lead to nuclear war. Let us hope that God will speak good sense to the actors on the world stage so that peace will reign and people will not live in fear but in hope.

A happy and blessed Christmas to all.

Conrad Spencer
Conrad Spencer, Ep Fr.

Kingsley Lewis
Kingsley Lewis, Ep. Fr.

"Advance the Kingdom" -Live as Kingdom Citizens

PEC MEETING

- ♦ The PEC will meet in the Antigua Conference from January 25 - January 28, 2018.
- ♦ The Superintendents conference will convene on January 29 - January 30th, 2018.

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

Other meetings for 2018 are as follows:

- ♦ Barbados Conference April 5th - 8th
- ♦ Tobago Conference July 5th - 8th
- ♦ St. Kitts Conference October 18th - 21st.

FURLOUGH

- The Rev. Hilton Joseph, Superintendent of the Moravian Church St. Kitts Conference and Pastor of the Zion Moravian Congregation in St. Kitts, has been granted four (4) months furlough from January 29th - April 29th, 2018

American Board of World Mission News



Our friend and colleague, Sister Judy Ganz, the former Executive Director of the American Board of World Mission retired at the end of December 2017. The Eastern West Indies Province wishes her well and thank her for the massive contribution to mission in the Moravian Church throughout the Unity.

At the same time, we welcome the new Executive Director, Bro. Justin Rabbach as he takes up his post. We look forward to working with him in the future.



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
Sis. Beverly Job	24
Sis. Andrea Lord-Smith	29



Anniversary Greetings
for the month of
January is extended to:

Bro Nevin Lewis & Sis. Billie Sterling-Lewis 05

Joke of the Day

Grandma's Christmas Strategy

One Christmas, a mother decided she was no longer going to remind her kids to send thank you notes. Consequently, the kids' grandmother never received any thanks for the Christmas checks she sent to the kids.

The very next Christmas, all the kids stopped by in person to thank their grandmother for their checks.

When asked by a friend what caused this change in behaviour, the grandmother replied, "Simple.

This Christmas I didn't sign the cheques."

"Advance the Kingdom" - Live as Kingdom Citizens

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 over-looking the picturesque out-skirts 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.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018

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