

# The Information

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



May, 2019

## Has the Church lost its power?

What does the church become when deprived of the regular revelation of Christ's glory? In the first place; it becomes *spiritually malnourished*, for it was called into existence to glorify Christ and to commune with the Godhead by feeding upon Christ.

It is by the church's intake of Christ that it is able to manifest Christ. Without this *feasting* upon the things of Christ, she will experience spiritual declension.

A decline into cold formalism and institutionalism is not foreign to any of us. For we have witnessed this same tendency toward luke-warmness in our own persons. We are all too familiar with the kind of spiritual chill that can come over the soul and numb its operations.

It is Christ who has purchased His church. He owns the church and rules the church by His infallible Word. When believers forget that Christ owns and rules His church, then there is an inescapable pull in the direction of man-centeredness. *Form* tends to slowly replace *function*.

The church cannot manifest Christ through true community unless it is living out its union with Christ. Without radical identification with Christ; it sentences itself to nominal Christianity.

Christ is the source of supernatural power *for love, for sacrifice, for service, and for unity*. The church cannot fulfill its biblical *function* apart from utter dependence upon Christ (Jn 15:1-12).

The church is a community of believers called out of the world by Christ. He intends that it *functions* as His 'visible' Body on earth.



Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis  
Chairman of PEC

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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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*Has the Church lost its power*  
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'Body life' is the church functioning as a revolutionary community characterized by supernatural *love, sacrifice, giftedness, and unity* (1 Cor 12; Eph 4). And, it is to live out this Christ-empowered supernatural community under the eye of the watching world (Jn 17:20-21).

We must never forget that the Authority of the Word of God is in tension with man's "power." The greater the submission is to God's Word (through which Christ is ruling); the more room there is for God's power to work. Jesus built His Church by only using the Word of God, Biblical principles, and people committed to His Lordship.

The church cannot maintain its fervency apart from communion with Christ. When He comes and shows Himself amidst our meditation and communion with Him; He brings with Him peace, comfort, joy, and assurance. Christ's intent is that we *'feast'* with Him by means of these spiritual refreshments (Rev 3:20).

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UNI-  
NEWS



### **One Year Theological Education in Sauni-As / Nicaragua**

One year ago, theological education by the Moravian Church in Nicaragua was started for Moravian of the Mayangna people in the area of Sauni-As in northeastern Nicaragua. Thirty students have enrolled for the diploma course, and 15 people participate in the theological- liturgical training for lay workers. In connection with the jubilee celebrations, it was decided to regularly publish a small bulletin informing about the theological education and other activities of the Moravian Church in Nicaragua. Attached to the message were the first issue of the bulletin and four articles by a Mayangna journalist about the current situation in the remote, less developed area of Sauni As.

### **Jerome Smith reaches the Semifinals in the "Jamaica Festival Song Competition"**

In annual "Jamaica Festival Song Competition" the best singer and the best song are sought. Jerome Smith, also called Jay and teacher at the Bethlehem Moravian College in Malvern / St. Elizabeth presented his solo song "Embassy Appointment" at the semifinals in the Ranny Williams Entertainment Center on April 27, 2019. In Embassy Appointment, Smith relates the experience of Mr. Brown, who is trying to get a visa to travel to the United States on vacation.

The consular officer insists that Mr. Brown prove that he will not run away or overstay. The patriotic Mr. Brown responds that he has no reason to leave Jamaica as his country is naturally beautiful and has a lovely climate. "We can't left Jamaica because Jamaica is the perfect place to live," says the song.

The song was written by Allison. Now the college seeks support for the singer:

"It is fantastic! Please support Jay!"

### **Gratitude shown to Active Youth in Jamaica**

The Youth of the Moravian Church in Jamaica shows on its Facebook page some pictures of a special event. The Provincial Board had invited about 20 particularly meritorious young people for the April 28, 2019 to a trip. They all are committed and passionate, some of them in the work of the congregations, some of them in the social field. The excursion took the youngsters first to the country's largest zoo, the Hope Garden in the capital, Kingston. Then we went to the outskirts of the city in one of the most beautiful buildings in the country, the villa "Davon House". They had the opportunity to do a sightseeing tour through the house, which famous because it was built by George Stibel, the first black millionaire in Jamaica. And there was also an ice-cream for everybody.

**"Advance the Kingdom" - Live as Kingdom Citizens**



## The Courageous Journey of Faith calls us to "Let Go and Let God"

Judy Winspeare-Philip (Mrs.)  
Finalizing service at UTCWI Chapel –  
Wed 27 March 2019

Let us pray

After accepting the call to follow Jesus, I was stripped of myself, I had to go through a period of pounding, pressing, grinding and reshaping in order to understand the call.

Letting go is never easy; it calls for us to leave our country, our livelihood, our comfort and the worst of it is separating ourselves from families and loved ones. Letting go is scary, it means letting go of our control and no one wants to be out of control.

Some theologians would say that the text from [the book of Genesis 12:1-10](#) is the beginning of salvation history, it foreshadows the later patriarchs, the nation of Israel, and the entire Davidic line, including the messiah.

Other theologians might argue that It is also the nest for the biblical concept of the blessing; God was at work in the lives of His people to counter the effects of the curse. Despite God's swift judgement of sin, most people ignored him and continued to sin. But GOD revealed himself to Abram, who would later be renamed Abraham and God chose to use Abraham's family to be the instrument of his salvation plan for humanity. Abraham was not chosen because he was a perfect man; in fact, his life demonstrated some great flaws. But he also demonstrated great faith in God and in God's promises and obedience in letting go.

Our main focus will be about Abraham receiving God's call and letting go. I will be paying particular attention on verses 1-3 of Genesis 12. Reading the passage, one could say that Abraham did not totally obey the full instructions given because not only did he take his wife, but he took his nephew and a few others with him. God gave Abraham several instructions, leave thy country, separate yourself from your family and move to a place of uncertainty (**I can imagine if Abraham was a Caribbean man in his old age**) Like Abraham I answered the call, but I left my family behind. (**my warden would say she did not take her family, but her husband could not leave her alone**)

I Packed my four suitcases to a destination unknown (yes, I was coming to the island of Jamaica but to where exactly was I going I knew not); accompanying me were two large suitcases, one medium and a small. One large suitcase held the garments of courage; the other the garments of faith; the medium suitcase held the garments of obedience and the small suitcase garment of fear.

**Letting go and letting God required us to clothe ourselves in the garments of courage; courage to step out into the unknown, courage to say Lord I'm available; courage to say lead me Lord I will follow. It is evident that Abraham was not ready to face the courageous journey alone he needed company hence he walked with his wife and company. I have learnt over these few months that it takes courage in moving forward even when you feel alone. It means standing alone when no one dears to stand with you. You see when God calls us out and sets us apart for his purpose wearing our garments of courage will begin to feel comfortable. (Women buying wrong shoe size; they wear size eight but purchase a seven and half because it was the last pair and the sales clerk told them that it would stretch. They ware it until it eventually become comfortable)**

God grants us courage for every call.

As student pastors preparing for ministry, at times one can become lost in mind, body and soul and just need to hear the words take courage; be courageous, God will take care of you and it can make a difference. Maybe you are facing an overwhelming situation or perhaps being recently diagnosed with an illness and need to hear these words take courage hold on to God's unchanging hand.

The first step to courage is to remember who we are in Jesus Christ; to remember that in Christ we are strong, victorious, accepted, justified, redeemed, saved, and completely forgiven. Our sins are washed away. We were born for courage, not for fear. God placed within us a level of courage because he wants us to try new things. He wants us to be obedient. He wants us to trust in Him knowing that he will never leave us helpless. We can take courage because we are not facing our challenges alone. God, our heavenly Father, the all-powerful, is right here with us.

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**"Advance the Kingdom" - Live as Kingdom Citizens**

*The Courageous Journey of Faith calls us to  
"Let Go and Let God"  
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**Letting Go and letting God calls us to clothe ourselves in the garments of Faith;**

Interestingly the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir renders a verse this way

"It's hard to take the first step  
When I don't know the way  
Each turn is so uncertain  
I learn to walk by faith  
But you gave me a promise  
That you will never leave  
You will lead and guide me  
Lord I do believe

When God called Abram, he moved out in faith. He moved from Ur to Haran and finally to Canaan. God then established a covenant with Abram, telling him he would be founder of a great nation. Not only will this nation be blessed, God said, but the other nations of the earth would be blessed through Abram's descendants. Through Abram's family tree, Jesus Christ, was born to save humanity. Through Christ, people can have a personal relationship with God and be blessed beyond measure.

Having Faith in God is a winning attitude. It is being determined to have a positive attitude in what appears to be a dim situation. Faith is the one thing that is necessary for life in this world where everyone seems to be doing their own thing.

The apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 1:12 declared; "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Faith in God can change any situation. Elijah when contesting with the false prophets on Mount Carmel, soaked the sacrifice and the altar with much water, and when God answered his prayer, the people cried out, "The LORD He is God!" (1 King 18:38-39)

Faith in God can change any situation and give new hope in times of trouble.

Faith in God calls us to be transformed. Romans 12:1-2 declares *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

Faith in God requires a level of trust. Each one of us came here today and we sat without doubting that the chair is safe to hold us. That is faith. It is walking by faith and not by sight. It is letting go and letting God have his way, even when we are unable to see at the end of the tunnel.

**Letting Go and letting God calls us to clothe ourselves in the garment of Obedience**

The story was shared with me about a man who was taking a journey through a dark forest in order to get to his destination. He was given a bag and was told to collect as many rocks as he could. He thought it was foolish instructions, so he refused to collect the rocks from the start. Only as he was drawing closer to the end of his journey that he decided to collect the rocks. When he arrived at the end of his journey, he glanced into the bag only to see the rocks sparkling like what appears to be diamonds, he wanted to return to collect some more but it was too late for him. His lack of obedience caused him not to have gathered more sparkling rocks while Abraham's obedience caused him to have become the father of many nations. The scripture instructs us that Obedience is better than sacrifice.

If we have sincerely committed our lives to God, then we are going to obey Him; we are going to trust Him and leave all the consequences to Him. Being obedient does not mean that we will never face difficult situations as we would have recognized further in this same chapter.

Abraham obeyed and trusted God. God promised to bless Abram and make him famous, but God had one condition. Abram had to do what God wanted him to do.

This meant leaving his home and friends and travelling to a new land where God promised to build a great nation from Abram's family. Abram obeyed, walking away from his home for God's promise of even greater blessings in the future. Maybe God is trying to lead us to a place of greater service and usefulness for him. Don't let the comfort and security of your present position make you miss God's plan for you. Let go and let God

**Letting Go and letting God calls us to clothe ourselves with the garment of Fear;**

Sis Judy what are you saying to me this morning, the scripture tells us that God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7) but you are telling me to clothe myself with the garment of fear. My answer to you is

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**"Advance the Kingdom" - Live as Kingdom Citizens**

## PROVINCIAL WATCHWORD 2019

Each year, the (Unity) that is the Worldwide Moravian Church chooses by "LOT" a watchword for each of the Moravian Unity Provinces, Mission Provinces, Mission Areas and Prospective Mission Areas.

The Provincial Unity Watchword drawn for the Eastern West Indies Province (EWIP) is the one assigned for November 11th, 2019. It reads: **"You will know that I am the Lord; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame"**. Isaiah 49:23

This Text is our guiding principle for 2019. Congregations are encouraged to print on your bulletins and use it as often as possible throughout the year.

## PEC

## ING

## MEET-

The PEC convened its final meeting in Barbados from May 6th to 10th, 2019. This was the final meeting before the 32nd Provincial Synod which is scheduled from July 15th to 19th, 2019 in Barbados.

Let us all be in prayer as we approach and prepare for the 32nd Provincial Synod of the Eastern West Indies Province.

## PRO- VINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Kingsley Lewis, presently serving on special assignment in the Virgin Islands Conference will retire from the Ministry of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, effective April 30, 2019. Bishop Lewis retired after almost 46 years of unbroken service. We thank him for the yeoman service he has given to God, the Church and the community. We wish him every blessing in all his future endeavours.
- ❖ **A Retirement Service for Bishop Lewis will be held on Sunday June 23rd, 2019 at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church at 4.00 pm. All are welcome.**

We look forward to seeing you there.

- ❖ The Rev'd Kirk Barker who has accepted a call to serve as Pastor of the New Herrnhut Moravian

Church in the Virgin Islands Conference, proceeded on his assignment on Friday May 03, 2019. It has been a long journey and so we give God thanks for bringing the process to completion. We wish Bro. Barker and his family every blessing in their new endeavours.

## FURLOUGH

The Rev. Belinda Manswell-Daniel, Pastor of the Moriah and Evangel congregations in the Tobago Conference, requested and has been granted 4 months furlough, with effect from March 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019.

## 32<sup>nd</sup> PROVINCIAL SYNOD UPDATE

As we continue to finalize plans for the 32nd Provincial Synod to be held in Barbados on July 15-19, 2019, I wish to announce that Reports submitted for deliberation at the Synod was sent to **ALL** Synodals on May 17th, 2019.

The reports will be taken as read when we convene the Synod in Barbados on July 15, 2019. Any reports not embedded in this submission will be forwarded to you whenever they are received.

Due to the reduction in the original days for the Synod from July 12 to 19 to July 15 to 19, it has become necessary for us to have a Provincial Pre-Synod Meeting to discuss the reports, respond to questions and accept any suggestions and or proposals going forward.

The Pre-Synod Meeting will take place via Video Conferencing on Saturday June 8, 2019 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.

The Proposal booklet with will be forwarded to each Synodal soonest.

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*The Courageous Journey of Faith calls us to  
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yes but the scripture also says to fear God (*Deuteronomy 6:24 "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day."*).

Abraham could have denied letting go of all his wealth but because of his fear of God he was obedient to the call. He knew the capabilities of God and he did not want to suffer the wrath of God's anger and besides who could have turned down such a good offer to become the father of many nations and to be bless beyond measure. God called me to this ministry, and he equipped me for what lies ahead but I became fearful. Of all my suitcases the garment of fear, though being the smallest, became the heaviest.

Reality check! I have decided to take a courageous journey of faith, a faith that calls me to let go of myself, allowing God to have total control of my life. I took a leap of faith with all the boldness and courage I had and let go and let God. I realized that even though I said I let go and let God I was still trying to control situations at home in Antigua and my fear grew even more. Its like one evening my husband said to me you can't control everything, and you have no control of the outcome, focus on your studies because God has already handled everything before you left.

Letting go means trusting God in the mist of the fears. The outcome is in God's hands. God knows every situation and what is on every person's heart. The sooner we let go and let God handle a challenge or problem, the sooner we will feel lighter and become fearless. Holding onto past hurts, past mistakes, being anxious and having fearful thoughts, etc. clutters our mind and spirit and cause us to fear the wrong things.

Letting go and letting God calls us to clothe ourselves in the garments of courage; the garments of faith; the garments of obedience and the garments of fear. What is preventing us from clothing ourselves in the right attire? Is it the voices that tell us, we were not call by God, some of us came, some of us went, some of us were sent? Is it the continuous voices that screams at us and question our Sunday school faith? Is it the voices that challenge our religious beliefs? Is it the voices that questions who God is to us? Is it the negative voices in our head? Whatever it is, I encourage us to allow God to order our steps in His ways. Let him teach us how to talk in His way. Let him teach us how to walk in His way as we seek to take the courageous journey of faith in letting go and letting God. We may think that we are on the right way to our destination, but we may not be. I ask the question Why not let Go and Let God?



**Congratulations**  
**to Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts for receiving the**  
**Servant's Heart Award at the Senior Prom on**  
**Saturday May 18th, 2019 in St. Thomas USVI.**



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## Birthday Celebrants for May

Bro. Patmore Smith	10
Sis. Ivy Vessup	10
Sis. Gloria Barker	11
Sis. Karen Bowers-Jones	21
Sis. Deborah Challenger	27
Bro. Daniel Mark	31
Sis. Menelva Samuel	31



## Anniversary Celebrants for May

Bro. Adrian & Sis. Andrea Smith	14
Sis. Elva Richards Goodwin & Bro. Michael Goodwin	23
Bro. Edgar and Sis. Angela Frederick-Barriero	25



## Ordination Anniversaries in May



Bro. Ralph Prince	31 May, 1992
Bro. Reuben Vessup	31 May, 1992
Bro. Nigel Daniel	25 May, 2002



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### Something to Ponder

#### The Dead Church

A new pastor in a small Midwestern town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first service.

The following Sunday, the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that because the church was dead, it is everyone's duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon, the notice stated.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the pulpit, they saw a closed coffin, smothered with flowers. After the pastor delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead church", all the people lined up to look into the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror!



### 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."***

- RICK WARREN -





# Moravian Multipurpose Complex



Conferences Seminars  
Weddings Banquet  
Meetings Dinner  
Graduations

Only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks in St. John's.

Our International airport is also just ten minutes away.

Our balcony provides a refreshing view of undulating hills and valleys.

The conference center has a seating capacity for 200 persons.

We are situated on a hill overlooking the picturesque 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.

## Conference Center & Apartments



Contact us Tel: (268) 560-0185 Fax: (268) 462-0643  
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