

# 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**

**November, 2019**



**Rev. Algernon Lewis**  
**Chairman of PEC**

## Go Back the Way You Came!

These words echoed during the Synod 2019 as they were released by Synod Chaplain, Rev. Neilson Waithe. Bro Waithe paraphrased 1 Kings 19:15 when God met the prophet Elijah at Mount Horeb and instructed him to, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus..." – go back the way you came. This story is well known. However, that phrase sounds like a word for the Province and possibly for all who find themselves stuck, not knowing what are the next steps.

In the text, Elijah just had a huge victory having called down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice on the altar. In the process, he had proved that the God of heaven was the real God and other gods were nothing. The collateral damage of the victory was the 400 prophets of Baal, one of the local gods. This action did not please Jezebel and she sent a threat to Elijah that she planned to kill him within 24 hours. From that point, Elijah made sure to put distance between him and Jezebel. In running away from Jezebel he reached Mount Horeb and had this encounter with God. God sent him back to the place from which he had come to initiate the next phase of the ministry – go back the way you came.

In this article, I will provide a personal interpretation as to what this might mean for us – the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province. It may also have wider implications.

The Moravian Church has more stories to tell about the overcoming power of God than most other traditional denominations. Most of our stories are cherished memories, speaking of what God did with our spiritual forebears. Celebrating the actions of God among our spiritual forebears is great. However, we also need current stories to help us track the recent moves of God.

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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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Without those reports of the movement of God, it may be time for re-evaluation as mission drift may have set in. This type of looking back is not for historians but for every church member or Christ-follower to ask, "When was the last time we knew for sure that God was moving among us?" The question is not so much about the faithfulness of God in individual circumstances but in the corporate body. When we identify a time when God was widely active in the church corporate, we also need to ask: "What happened? Why did it happen? How did it happen?"

Let us go way back to the early days of Herrnhut to the quarrelling church. This was a mixed group of people with varying ideas of what it meant to be the church in their context. They had their convictions and were not prepared to yield to the other for fear of losing their identity or other personal reasons. Amid the quarrels, they opened themselves for the Spirit of God to interrupt their agendas and opinions. In other words, they submitted their personal preferences for God's preferences. The result was the renewed Moravian Church of 1727. That church was the "fountainhead" from which Moravian Mission flowed. Had it not been for that singular event, the missionary journeys to the Caribbean and other parts of the world might not have happened.

Going back the way we came in this case, means looking at that event to see how it shaped this church in the past and how it might shape the church in the present. The quarrels are all around us. Conflicting personal agendas and convictions remain with us today – the spirit of Jezebel is still alive. How might we attract the attention of the Spirit of God for another visitation? What does God require from us at this time so that the Holy Spirit might silence the noise of self-will so that the agenda of heaven is heard? Often, the action of God on the human stage is dynamic and messy. There are no simple or complex formulas. What is often required is that the people of God allow for the unrestricted movement of God among us. When we are open to God, the possibilities are endless.

What happened when the Moravians came to the Caribbean? The focus was on reaching people for Christ. In reaching "souls for the Lamb," there was a strong emphasis on empowering people. Sharing the gospel was just as important as developing the mind.

Therefore, schools were built and the opportunity was provided for social mobility. It was a whole-person ministry.

Could this be one of the things that God is sending us back to? Could it be that we are being called again to focus on reaching all people with a whole-person ministry? The result of the earlier movement was that the church made inroads as it had practical application to the lives of ordinary people. How are we empowering people as part of our current ministry practices? How is the church contributing to people's lives and having everyday relevance? Is there still a need for ministry that meets people where they are and provide relevant tools for living in these times? Most would answer in the affirmative. In this secular age, there is a greater need for ministry to help people to focus on eternal values rather than temporal matters. With all the disruptions and dislocations that take place in communities and families, the gospel provides relevant tools for people to live beyond the trials of the present. Our gospel is a message of hope and is singular in its ability to transform the human heart.

The challenge we face may be about practicality and functionality – how is this to be done? There are no easy answers or templates to follow. Yet I point us back to our forebears in Herrnhut who earnestly pursued God and waited. I believe that God is already showing ways that we might reengage our communities and represent the values of the kingdom. If we think it depends on us, then frustration will continue to be our portion. When we are open to the Spirit of God, the possibilities are endless. In some circumstances, it is not ingenuity we need but the ability to listen to God, scripture, and our community.

Going back the way we came sends me back to a time when there was an unmistakable movement of God among youth. Sunday Schools, youth groups, youth camps, youth rallies, and other youth activities galvanized youth to surrender their lives to Jesus. Out of that movement came pastors, ministers of Christian Education, church leaders, and other passionate Christ-followers. Some of those persons are still serving today.

What might God be saying to us about reaching back to this generation of youth? There is no question that our youth need to have life-transforming encounters with Jesus. This is a generation that is not concerned with fluff but with authenticity and practicality. What does that mean for the church?

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



## University of the West Indies Awards

Recently, the University of the West Indies honoured two (2) Moravian Governors General in the person of Sir Rodney Williams of Antigua and Barbuda and Sir S. W. Tapley Seaton of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Sir Rodney Williams grew up in the Cana Moravian Church in Swetes and is a Medical Doctor by profession. He was also a Parliamentarian for many years.

Sir Tapley Seaton is a member of the Zion Moravian Church in St. Kitts. He is a Queen's Counsel (QC), having been a distinguished attorney in St. Kitts and Nevis for many years. He also served as Attorney General in St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Provincial Family extends heartiest congratulations to these brothers and pray God's continued favour on them and their service to humanity.

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His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, was among three recipients of the University of the West Indies (UWI) Alumni Association Pelican Awards. The event was held at Government House in Antigua on Saturday, 12th October 2019. The Pelican Award is the highest honour an Alumni Association can bestow on an individual and is indicative of the pride that the Alumni has in the individual who has achieved success nationally, regionally or internationally.



Sir Rodney was a member of the Medical Faculty Board for Class of 1976, the year in which he graduated as a Medical Doctor from UWI. He served as a member of University Council succeeding his father, the late Ernest Emanuel Williams who also served as a Lay Preacher in the Moravian Church in Antigua in his earlier years. Sir Rodney and his father were the first father and son to serve on the Council. He is currently the Patron of the UWI Giving Fund.

Rev. Dr. William Wilberforce Watty, past President of the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica and past Connexional President of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA) was also honoured that evening. Dr. Watty is now retired in his native Dominica.

In his response, Sir Rodney stated that "the theme for this year's Pelican Awards Ceremony and Chancellor's Forum, "UWI Embracing and Engaging Alumni" is very apt, since the Alumni brings persons together. Its members are products of a common foundation with a common understanding and appreciation of the needs and psyche of the region." He further commented on the necessity of strengthening the links between our different islands, our diverse peoples and the UWI, since a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. "When we strengthen the Alumni Associations in our individual countries, we fortify the entire chain of islands in the Caribbean region." Sir Rodney has consistently worked at building bridges and making a difference in people's lives.

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

The University of the West Indies (Open Campus) at its Graduation Ceremony in Antigua on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 honoured Governor-General of Saint Kitts and Nevis His Excellency Sir S. W. Tapley Seaton GCMG, CVO, QC, JP with the Honourary Degree of Doctor of Laws (LL. D.) in recognition of his Public Service.



Sir. Tapley Seaton  
Governor General of St. Kitts & Nevis

Sir Tapley who has been Governor-General since 2015, previously served as Attorney General (1980 to 1995) and as President of his Local Bar Association and the OECS Bar Association.

The Honourary Graduand delivered the Graduation Address and stated that he was humbled by the Award and thanked his parents and other family members for their commendable example.



He exhorted the Graduates to express gratitude to God and to those whose sacrifice enabled them to be successful. His Excellency also commended to the Graduates the virtues of Honesty and Integrity, Respect, Lifelong Learning and Commitment and Service.

He congratulated the Graduates on their success and wished them well for the future.



### 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.

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



# *Congratulations*

The Provincial Family extends heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Billie Sterling-Lewis, wife of the Rev. Nevin Lewis (Montgomery, Tobago) on her graduation from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Faculty of Medical Sciences, with a Post Graduate Diploma in Loss, Grief and Trauma Management.



The graduation took place on Saturday, October 19, 2019 in Barbados.



## **Greetings to Bethany Moravian Church, St. John, Virgin Islands 265th Anniversary**

Let Bethany rejoice! Let the children nurtured within her walls cry out and shout, for great is the work of the Lord in the midst of you! Let all join in celebrating 265 years of Ministry, Mission, and Making Disciples.

The Provincial family extends joyful greetings to our brothers and sisters at Bethany Moravian, St. John, Virgin Islands. It is a distinct pleasure to send warm greetings to you on this most momentous anniversary. Who knew that when work begun here at Bethany in 1754 that we would still be here to raise an Ebenezer and say with confidence - Up to this point the Lord has helped us! What a God and what a journey.

This journey has been filled with many triumphs. There are many stories of lives that have been touched and changed by the hand of God. It is quite likely that there are many more stories to tell that might only be heard as we listen to the voices in the community. Many of you celebrating know just how much this community of faith has impacted your lives.

Some of our stories are not so happy. To think of the challenges of being church in this modern season can be daunting. Add to that recovering from the effects of Hurricane Irma and the dislocations caused to people's lives. Through it all, God has been present, and like when the children of Israel walked through the wilderness, God has remained faithful. Let us never forget, that God will be faithful to the end.

This is a time of celebration. Celebration of the goodness of God. Celebration of the strength of God in you. Celebration of what God has done in and through you. Celebration of where the Lord has brought you from and brought you through.

As you celebrate and shine, I pray you can look away from your pressing internal needs and consider what God is doing around you – where is the bush burning without being consumed. Maybe there are people in your community who are still trying to come to terms with their loss after the hurricane or the death of a loved one. Where might the Macedonian call come for you to come over here and be God's hand extended? Could single parents, teenage parents, imprisoned youth or other marginalized people right around you be saying, "come over here and help us?" Where else can the light of God shine through Bethany and illuminate St. John? As you listen, Jesus will allow you hear. There are still disciples to be made .

The Spirit of God is opening new types of ministries in this post church era. As you listen, you will hear God calling Bethany with all your gifts, wisdom, and experience that come with 265 years of ministry, mission, and disciple-making to use them to foster divine purpose. There is no greater purpose than to be used of God to impact the life of another for good.

## **"Advance the Kingdom" ~ Live as Kingdom Citizens**

## Congratulations- on receiving National Awards

The Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province offers congratulations to all of the 8 persons who received National Awards by the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda during the 38th Anniversary of Independence on November 01, 2018. In addition, we offer special words of congratulations to the three Moravians who numbered among them:



- ♦ Dr. Edris Mercier-Bird named Dame Commander, The Most Illustrious Order of the nation for her contribution in the field of Education and Community Service. Dr. Bird is a member of the Spring Gardens Moravian Congregation.



- ♦ Mr. Glasford Leroy Anthony Francis was honoured for distinguished contribution made in the field of business and community service, officer, The Most Illustrious Order of Merit (OM). Mr. Francis is a member of the Cashew Hill Moravian Congregation.



- ♦ Junior Adolphus Martin for distinguished contribution in the field of Music and Cultural development. Member, The Most Illustrious Order of Princely Heritage (MH). Mr. Martin is a member of the Spring Gardens Moravian Congregation.



Go back the way you came!  
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It may mean that we think less about our rules and regulations and more about modeling authentic faith before people. It may mean getting over ourselves and allowing God to do the work in us and through us. John 12:24 is relevant as we go back the way we came - *unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* There will be no lasting godly outflows until we die to self and allow God to work through us.

Going back the way we came is a call for us to consider carefully the mandate of God on the church – this church. How do we understand the mandate based on our history and our current realities? What are we to learn from the “fountainhead?” Once understanding comes, we need to begin to internalize and incarnate what God expects of us. What practices should characterize our lives and the church so that the purposes of God are accomplished? Where and to whom is God sending us? There are always more questions than answers. “The road is rough and the going gets tough and hills are hard to climb,” yet I am confident that God is waiting for us to purposefully ask questions so that we may discover where God is active around us. Let us go back the way we came and recapture the ground we have lost.



## GIVE

**T**aste and see that the LORD is good.

Psalm 34:8a

Enter **H**is gates with thanksgiving and  
His courts with praise.

Psalm 100: 4a

**A**scribe to the LORD the glory due  
His name.

Psalm 96: 8 a

Glory in **N**ame; let the hearts of those who seek  
His holy Name; the LORD rejoice.

Psalm 105: 3

Let us **K**neel before the LORD our Maker.

Psalm 95: 6b

**S**ing and make music in your heart to the Lord.  
always giving thanks to God  
the Father for everything.

Ephesians 5:19b-20a

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Birthday Celebrants for November

Sis. Onita K. Samuel	1
Sis. Katrina Reece Burley	17
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	27



## Wedding Anniversary Celebrants for November

Bro. Alban & Sis. Cynthia St. Hill 24



## Ordination Anniversary


Sis. Eulencine Christopher November 05, 1995



## Quote of the Day

Jesus Christ is the key which unlocks the door of the prison cell of our own making and sets us free to live in the wide world of God's love and purpose.

Kenneth Pillar



THE MORAVIAN CHURCH ANTIGUA CONFERENCE

# CHIEF ELDER FESTIVAL 2019

## PRAYER MEETING

### 9TH

NOVEMBER, 5:30AM

**BETHANY MORAVIAN CHURCH**

# YOUTH EMPHASIS SERVICE

### 10TH

NOVEMBER, 9:00AM

**SPRING GARDENS MORAVIAN CHURCH**

For the Youth Emphasis Worship Service, members are kindly asked to dress in casual wear. On this occasion, MYLUNC (Moravian Youth Learning For Living in Christ) Ministry will be officially launched. To this end, MYLUNC T-Shirts are available at \$25.00 each and can be ordered through the Conference Office. Each Zone has been assigned a color and each congregation may have a different shade of that color. T-Shirts can be worn with jeans; however, indecent exposure will be frowned upon.

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me. John 14:6"*



## Joke of the Day

A young man and woman got married. At the time of their marriage, the husband noticed his wife carried a decently sized metal box and shoved it up at the top of their closet. Curious as he was, the wife told him to never to look in it no matter what the circumstances. Over the years, he saw that metal box in the closet, but never peered into it for the sake of his wife. One day, though, the wife had a stroke and was rushed to the hospital. As the husband sat grieving at home, he thought of the box, snatched it up, and sped to the hospital where his wife remained with her death coming soon. The husband bolted to her hospital room and pleaded and begged her to allow him to open the box by her side. "Well" she said, "I suppose now would be the right time." The husband unlatched the hook and peered inside. On one side sat two crocheted dolls, and on the other, to his surprise, sat one million dollars! "Honey, before we got married, my mother gave me this box and told me that whenever I got mad at you, I should go to the bedroom and crocheted a doll," said the wife. The husband was thrilled and thankful. He absolutely couldn't believe his wife had only been mad at him two times! "That is amazing!" said the husband to his wife. "Honey, I'm grateful beyond belief you've only been mad at me twice, but how on this earth did you manage to get one million dollars?" "Oh, honey" said the wife, "That's the money I got from selling the dolls."

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# Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conferences

Weddings

Meetings

Seminars

Banquet

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



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