

# 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

October, 2019



## Wait a Minute

Can you believe that it is October already? October signals the time for planning for the coming year. Yes, 2020 is upon us. It seems like we have been waiting for 2020 for a long time. The United Nations has millennium goals that mature in 2020. I do not know of any church-related goals for 2020 but the gospel goals are always before us as a church. How can we make 2020 a special year for the mission of God in the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province and the wider community? Given all the complexities of ministry and the upheavals in community and family, how might we use 2020 to re-focus people on the core values of the kingdom and the benefits of following Jesus?



**Rev. Algernon Lewis**  
Chairman of PEC

This article will focus on how we can make a difference in 2020 with our planning. Planning requires time and effort. If we simply look at last year's activities and recycle them, the mission of God is being trivialized. How might we enter 2020 with a new focus? I humbly suggest that we learn to ask better questions. A powerful question is one that forces the person to pause and think. Powerful questions open people for discoveries. Powerful questions force us to be creative because yesterday's response is not sufficient.

Robin J. Steinke, President of Luther Seminary, in a recent article indicated that church leaders were asked to reflect on this question: "What gets in the way?" "What gets in the way of hearing God's call? Of doing the first things first? Of attending to what matters most in ministry: faith formation, spiritual practice, and exploring new ways to connect with God and neighbour?"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Steinke, "What gets in the way?"

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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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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*Wait a Minute*  
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Don't be too quick to answer that question. Each group planning for 2020 must ask and answer this hard question. Is it tradition? Is it time or commitment? Is it a lack of passion? Is it a lack of resources? What about a genuine lack of ideas and know-how? Are there control issues lurking in the deep? What about fear, does it have a place here? Whatever the answers, they need to be confronted.

Dr. Steinke asks further, "What if God was pruning it away to make space for something better?"<sup>2</sup> When we look at programmes that are not working anymore or are not making the desired impact, could it be that it is the Holy Spirit prompting us to cast our net on the other side? Pruning of any kind is painful yet desirable. Jesus makes this declaration, "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." (John 15:2) It sounds cruel but Jesus basically says that it is part of the process of ministry and growth – pruning will come so that production is realized.

As we plan towards 2020, what might Jesus be pruning away? Each context dictates for itself. However, let me just put this out there – could Jesus be pruning our calendar of events? It seems that church is getting busier, demanding more time from members for activities that are not central to the mission of the church. This is happening at a time when members have less available time. More activities assume that people have more time. But we know that is not true, so that assumption must be eliminated. How can we best use the limited time that members have and where is God in this process? If God is pruning, then what should we do? As people of faith, we wait to see what God is up to.

To understand what God is up to requires deep listening. Most persons listen to respond. This kind of listening is to understand. Listening to God involved being open to what God is doing around us. Sometimes people are calling out for help but it is camouflaged as deviant behaviour. The moral decline in our communities is not a call to disconnect but to engage in more meaningful ways and help people to interpret the gospel in the light of their lived reality. Listening is foundational to planning for 2020 and if it

is not done deeply, our plans are designed to fit us rather than the people God has called us to serve.

Here is another question we might ask, "What would make me want to participate if I were not already involved?" The deeper questions are about meaning, purpose, and value. Are these things built into whatever we are planning for 2020? Maybe we can ask friends and family the reasons for their allegiance to groups and organizations that capture their attention. Maybe we can also ask why are they not part of our group or organization. Their answers may be enlightening.

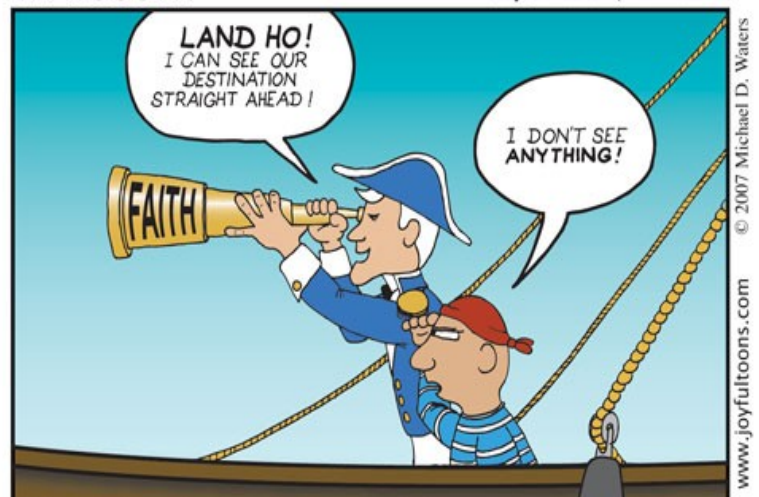
As the planning for 2020 gets on the way, these four questions may be included along the way – What should we keep doing? What should be changed? What should we start doing? What should we stop doing? Let the questions play in the mind and answer honestly. We may find that some practices are life-giving, while others, though treasured, add nothing to our lives.

2020 is but three months away. Let us get the planning going. Let us make this a great year for the gospel of Christ and the renewal of the church. Let us be deliberate about our activities so they make a significant impact on our lives and other people's lives.



### TELESCOPE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. – II CORINTHIANS 4:18 NKJV

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October 1, 2019 – St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands  
 Contact: Ralph Prince (340) 643-7870 or Elisa Hodge (340) 771-5332  
**Pauline Louise Thomas – Centenarian - Celebrates 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



On October 3, 2019, Pauline Louise Thomas of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands will celebrate her 104th birthday surrounded by family and friends. Mrs. Thomas' home circle consists of her adopted son, retired pastor Reverend Ralph Prince, his wife Rosalind and their children with whom she has lived with for the past 20 years.



Pauline Louise Thomas is the second child of John and Helen "Ellen" Prince and was born in Palestina, St. John, on October 3, 1915. Her deceased siblings are Herman Prince (Ralph Prince father), Laura Prince Sewer, Ophelia Prince Blackwood and Naomi Prince-Jacobs. She was married to the late John Thomas and the late Fermin Sewer.

"Auntie Pauline", as she is affectionately referred to by family and friends, worked for over 40 years at the Caneel Bay Resort on St. John. After her retirement, she became a foster grandparent to the children at the Cruz Bay Day Care Center for 11 years.

In December 2015 she was honored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, St. Thomas/St. John Chapter (Sigma Theta Omega Chapter) as a Community Elder its Annual Kwanzaa Celebration for her exemplification of the Kwanzaa principles.



For her entire life, "Auntie Pauline" has attended various Moravian Churches and was very active at the Emmaus Moravian Church during her youth.

She faithfully attended Bethany, Memorial, and New Herrnhut where her adopted son, Rev. Ralph Prince was pastor.



To this day, she reads her bible daily and participates in morning devotions. She has an excellent memory of past events which she is always willing to share and remembers things she heard before her birth and practically everything that has happened since she was born.

Auntie Pauline loves to sing and will take advantage of any occasion to sing at church, social functions or at home to entertain friends with one of her all-time favorite songs. Her present favorite song is "God is Love", and a favorite that some listeners have learned by heart, "The Future Belongs to the Children".

One of her passions is drama. She acted in many religious and secular plays directed by Ms. Gerda Marsh and for many years was involved in the community with Hans Eilser performing in Cruz Bay, Coral Bay and St. Thomas.

Auntie Pauline has always taken pride in her personal deportment. She selects attractive outfits and loves to accessorize with scarves, hats, bands to complement her outfits and give her a sophisticated look.

She is a great family person, always calling her relatives to wish them a happy birthday or to find out if they arrived safely when traveling overseas or to give them the latest news. The family was delighted that she was able to reunite them with one of



her New York cousins whom they did not know and he was equally delighted to meet them. We all love her very much and pray that God will bless her with many more years of good health, prosperity and happiness!

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## Hurricane Dorian Appeal for the Bahamas

Over the past two (2) weeks we have been impacted by the images and sounds from the passage of Hurricane Dorian on the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. The Hurricane caused massive disruption and disorientation to the residents of those islands. Restoration and normalcy for those residents will require considerable resources of every kind. The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province stands ready to offer support. We are therefore encouraged to continue praying for our brothers and sisters in distress.

In addition to prayer, congregations are invited to collect an offering for this cause over the next six (6) weeks. It is hoped that with the extended period, we will be able to give small amounts over a longer period. Giving the extent of the damage and the number of people affected, let us go one step further during this missionary season. In addition to the special offering, each congregation is asked to give 1% of the 2019 Mission offerings to our brothers and sisters in Abaco and Grand Bahama. Congregations may also choose to give more than 1%.

Funds are to be remitted to the Provincial office by October 31, 2019. These will then be channeled through the Caribbean Council of Churches (CCC) and local churches so that it reaches the people with the greatest need. We will account for the funds received; therefore, please clearly indicate Bahamas Relief when submitting.

Thank you for caring in tangible ways for our brothers and sisters in need. What we make happen for others, God will make happen for us.

Let us be God's hand extended for families in need.

May God richly bless you for your efforts!

## Cultivating Community by Pastor Rick Warren

If you are a member of a small group or class, I urge you to make a group covenant that includes the nine characteristics of biblical fellowship:

**Authenticity**, we shall share our true feelings

**Mutuality**, encourage each other

**Sympathy**, support each other

**Mercy**, forgive each other

**Honesty**, speak the truth in love

**Humility**, admit our weaknesses

**Courtesy**, respect our differences

**Confidentiality**, not gossip

**Frequency**, make group a priority

When you look at the list of characteristics, it is obvious why genuine fellowship is so rare. It means giving up our self-centeredness and independence in order to become independent. But the benefits of sharing life together far outweigh the costs, and it prepares us for heaven.

### Verse to Remember:

***We understand what love is when we realize that Christ gave his life for us. That means we must give our lives for other believers.***

1 John 3:16 (GWT)

### Quote of the Day

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. Humility is thinking more of others.

-Rick Warren-

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# CLOUD OF WITNESSES

## HERE I AM LORD: THE STORY OF REBECCA FREUNDLICH PROTTE 1718-1780



### Rebecca: The Kidnapped Antiguan

Rebecca was born on the island of Antigua in 1718. She was called Shelly as a child. Her mother was of African descent while her father was a European. Shelly was kidnapped and shipped to St Thomas, then Danish West Indies, before she was ten years old. On St Thomas, her owner's name was Lucas Van Beverhoudt, who was a member of the Dutch Reform Church (now St Thomas Reformed Church). Van Beverhoudt, a devout believer, taught Shelly the scriptures and Christian values. Since the Reformed Church was not baptizing Africans at the time, her owner asked a Roman Catholic priest to baptize her. She was given the name Rebecca. At 12, Rebecca's owner died, and she became a free girl. Fortunately for Rebecca, she was able to read and write. It was at 18 that Rebecca heard about the Moravians who had begun a mission among the African population on St Thomas. She was told that not only did the Moravians welcome the enslaved Africans, but women and girls were given responsibilities to teach and preach. Rebecca went in search of the Moravians.

### Rebecca: The Evangelist

Rebecca met the Moravian missionary Frederick Martin who resided at the Posaunenberg Estate which was renamed New Herrnhut. Bro Martin has been credited with the rapid growth of the Moravian mission among the African population.

When Bro Martin met the young Rebecca, he was impressed with her Christian faith, intellect, and skills. Rebecca knew the scriptures well and was excited about the Lord. She made herself available to the Moravian mission to be an evangelist among the women. The Moravian Church gave Rebecca its blessing. Rebecca went the length and breadth of St Thomas preaching to the enslaved Africans.

As was the custom, by lot, Rebecca married a European missionary named Matthew Freundlich. Together they had a daughter named Ann. Rebecca continued her work of evangelism on the plantations. She preached late into the night even though it was not permitted. Hundreds were converted to Christianity during her ministry.

Rebecca, her husband and two other missionaries were accused of causing a rebellion among the enslaved Africans. They were imprisoned at Fort Christian. When Zinzendorf arrived on St Thomas, he asked the Governor to release the Moravian missionaries from prison. The Governor granted his request.

Although free, the stress of prison and the tropical climate on St Thomas were too much for Bro Freundlich. He got very sick and the family left for Germany where he could receive medical attention.

### Rebecca: The lonely Widow

On their way to Germany, Rebecca's husband died. Soon after, her daughter Ann died. Ann was four years old. It was very hard for Rebecca because in addition to her personal loss she did not know anyone in Germany. Frederick Martin, who was in Germany for a short time, had just left to return to St Thomas. Rebecca eventually found the Moravian community and was welcomed among the widow's group (choir). She was able to teach among the women and girls there. She learnt and spoke German. Rebecca remarried. This time to a husband of mixed African and European races. His name was Christian Protten. She had another daughter whose name was also Ann. Like the first Ann, the second one died in infancy.

Rebecca's husband, Bro Protten, was always in conflict with Zinzendorf, at Herrnhut. As a result, the couple was sent to another part of Germany. Eventually, Protten was sent off to Ghana, in 1757,

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where he was born. Rebecca remained in Germany for some time and continued to serve the Lord and the people of God.

Rebecca's second husband was a known alcoholic and had bad fortune. He started a school in Ghana and incidentally killed a student while he was cleaning his gun. He was in prison and then returned to Europe. Bro Protten did not have a good reputation among the Moravians.

### **Rebecca: The Teacher**

In 1763 after five (5) years apart, Rebecca chose to journey with her husband who was returning to Ghana. They focused their work among the mulattos in Ghana, teaching them skills and trade. However, Bro Protten got into conflict with the authorities yet again and was imprisoned for the second time for disrespecting the leaders. This became stressful for Rebecca who wanted to focus on the Lord's work but had to live with the constant shame of her husband. In the meantime, some Moravian missionaries came to begin work among the Africans in Ghana. Unfortunately, this did not take root. Many of the missionaries died soon after arrival. Rebecca's second husband Bro Protten died in 1769 at 52. Rebecca was a widow for the second time. The Moravian mission offered her to return to St Croix, but by this time her health had been too bad. She died in 1780 at 62. Her grave is in Ghana.

Rebecca offered herself to serve through good times and bad times, through ups and downs, as an enslaved and a free woman, as a prisoner and as a liberated woman. She was the evangelist in earlier years and teacher in later years. Rebecca's prayer to God always was: "Here I am, Lord-Send me."

© Winelle Kirton-Roberts September 2019

## **Bethany Moravian Church St. John USVI** **1754-2019**

*by Rev. Vankys Isaac*

..."Up to this point the Lord has helped us! (1 Samuel 7: 12 NLT)

In the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria (September 6th & 19th, 2017). The sanctuary at Bethany lost half of its roof and all its contents — pews, chairs, organ, piano, hymnals, Bibles, sound systems along with microphones, CD player etc.

After evaluation and assessment of the damage, the congregation got together and organized a workday to remove the water-soaked items, salvage and clean pews, chairs, rug, piano, electrical equipment - and to sanitize the building and prepare it for the resumption of worship.

The pastorate resumed worship (Bethany & Emmaus) in the damaged structure on Sunday, October 1, 2017 under an erected tent placed on an elevated platform inside the sanctuary under the portion of the roof that was not affected by the storm.

One year later, October 7, 2018 we shifted the worship space to the fellowship hall and laid out the plans to restore the roof and guttering, chip the cracked walls, plaster, replace electrical wiring and repaint the sanctuary.

The restoration work started in January of this year and was completed in seven weeks at a cost of approximately US\$70,000.00. Additionally, we have replaced the pews with chairs at a cost of roughly US\$8,000.00.

Hence the reason for our theme: "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!" The sanctuary was rededicated on March 3, 2019 by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer.

This year marks the 265th Anniversary of the Bethany Moravian Congregation; and our theme reflects our journey from 1741 when the Moravians first came to St. John and Brother John Brucher was assigned as St. John's first resident missionary in 1754.

Today we speak thankfully of the past, giving glory to God for the victory and for all His favors to us. We look to the future knowing that God is not finished with us. What God may yet do with us we do not know, but let us praise Him for what he has done.

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## Birthday Celebrants for October

Sis. Shanele Chase St. Hill	4
Sis. Zenaida Ramsay	8
Sis. Nicole Barker	9
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew	22
Bro. Algernon Lewis	24
Bo. Erflin Browne	25
Sis. Julie Joefield-Parris	28



## Wedding Anniversary Celebrants for October

Bro. Vankys & Sis. Myrtle Isaac	26
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The Moravian family in the Eastern West Indies Province, expresses condolences to the Rev Winston Jones on the death of his mother, Sis Veetland Jones.

Sis Jones transitioned from life into death on Monday, September 16, 2019 in Barbados.

The service of thanksgiving for the life of Sis Jones will take place at the Sharon Moravian Church, St. Thomas, Barbados on Friday, October 4, 2019.

The PEC also expresses sympathy on the passing of:

- ♦ Calvin Isaac, the husband of the late Lay Pastor Sis. Florence Isaac. He passed into the nearer presence of God on Wednesday September 19, 2019 at his home in Tobago. Funeral service was held on Thursday September 26 at 10.00 am in Tobago.
- ♦ Christiana Roberts, the Sister in-law of Sis. Esther Roberts, who died on September 20, 2019.

Let us remember the families in our prayers.



## One wish



A man walking along a California beach was deep in prayer. All of a sudden, he said out loud, "Lord, grant me one wish."

Suddenly the sky clouded above his head and in a booming voice, the Lord said, "Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish."

The man said, "Build a bridge to Hawaii, so I can drive over anytime I want to."

The Lord said, "Your request is very materialistic. Think of the logistics of that kind of undertaking. The supports required to reach the bottom of the Pacific! The concrete and steel it would take! I can do it, but is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of another wish. A wish you think would honor and glorify me."

The man thought about it for a long time. Finally, he said, "Lord, I wish that I could understand women. I want to know how they feel inside, what they are thinking when they give me the silent treatment, why they cry, what they mean when they say 'nothing,' and how I can make a woman truly happy."

After a few minutes, God said, "You want two lanes or four on that bridge?"



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# 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.



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