



A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE

The Information

"I must turn aside and look at this great sight....."When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses" And he said, "Here I am."
Exodus 3 vs 3-4 (NRSV)

June, 2020

Imagination and Insight

Covid-19 continues to be our unwelcomed communion. There is no telling how long we will be responding to this crisis and pandemic. It means that we must learn to live in this place of uncertainty. The path is clearer now as many territories are relaxing restrictions and slowly going back to living in the public sphere, albeit with different rubrics. Like every other facet of life, we must learn the new terms of engagement and master them.

This issue of the Provincial Newsletter of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province will provide valuable information about how we can live in this new world. Bishop Kingsley Lewis's message entitled "Growing in Brotherly love" is a powerful reminder of the need for Christian maturing and speaks to one of the ways the church is called to live in this time of crisis and pandemic.

"Coping in Mind, Spirit, and Body in the time of a Pandemic" was prepared by Ms. Shirlene Nibbs. She provides practical tips on fac-

ing the realities of our times while also adjusting to minimize the effects on our finances. The crisis need not be overwhelming for Christians as we walk by faith and not by fear.

There has been much talk about backyard gardening and other agriculture pursuits. Dr. Norma Samuel gives valuable information and encouragement on how this can be done in her article entitled "Food and Nutritional Security is Everyone's Business.". Her perspective is rooted in academic research and practice. Dr. Samuel grows most of what she eats – farm to garden. She also provided a link to her YouTube Channel where more tips are provided.

Throughout this period where sanctuaries were closed, Conferences and congregations migrated their ministries online. It was strange; it was new; it was different; it was in response to the realities before us. There was a real desire to connect with the people of God, to share the word of God, to encourage faith in a time of uncertainty.

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Rev. Algernon Lewis
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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Advance the Kingdom ~ S.H.I.F.T

It was an important faith statement that nothing can stop the church from moving forward. The church is not a building; the church is the people of God. If you have a Facebook account, you can find most of these worship services online. There is Montgomery Moravian in Tobago, Memorial Moravian in Trinidad, Calvary Moravian in Barbados, Bethlehem Moravian in Barbados, Moravian Church in St. Kitts, Moravian Church in Antigua, Memorial Moravian in St. Thomas, Nisky Moravian Church in St. Thomas and Friedensberg Moravian Church in St. Croix. There is also the mental health programme called *Courage in Crisis: Conversation of faith, Health and Wellness*. Commendations to all our Superintendents, Clergy, and technical personnel who went provided this virtual ministry.

In redirecting the building process, the theme SHIFT was chosen. It is clear to our leadership and membership that a shift needed to take place within the church. SHIFT is an acronym: S – seek and submit; H – hear and heed; I – imagine and insight; F – focus and function; T – total transformation. In previous issues, this column focused on “seek and submit” and “hear and heed.” While we will never exhaust seeking and submitting to God or hearing and heeding what God speaks to the church, we will move on to imagine and insight. That facet of the theme will be introduced here. Please also note that the topics are not linear, meaning that in real life, we do not simply go from one to the next. In our journey of faith and our ministry as a church, we will continue to move back and forth seeking and hearing, submitting and heeding as the mission of God continues in the world. God continues to speak and the faithful must continue to submit and heed. This is particularly true as we navigate this new wilderness of church in the Covid 19 pandemic.

Imagine (Imagination) and Insight. This combination is meant to force the church to think of how we might be church in a secular age. Looking back over the history of the church and Christendom, it was almost impossible to **not** believe in God. If one posited an atheistic point of view, it would be violently contested as there was almost wholesale agreement in the western world that God IS! Church was structured in those waters and angled itself to respond to those times. That was then.

How are we to be church in this environment? How do we reach to people who are not moved by stories of hell fire and being lost for eternity? How do we reach people who define their lives without any reference to external divinity? This makes room for imagination and insight! Let us think about these things and how we might be church.

Growing in Brotherly Love By Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Lewis



Genesis 37:26-27; 43:8-10; 44:30-34

People live their lives on several different levels.

Probably the easiest thing to do is merely to exist on the lowest level where one simply takes care of oneself without concerning himself about anybody else. However, a rich, full life includes a great amount of sacrifice. Some weeks ago, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, a headline caught my attention: “It’s time to reject the gods of commerce: America is a society - not an economy.”

I suggest that that statement is true of any of our island states.

I want to share with you this morning some thoughts on the life and character of Judah as contained in three chapters in the Book of Genesis.

Judah’s life is a study in the search for meaningful living.

1. Selfish Living (Gen. 37:26-27)

26 So Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.” And his brothers listened.

- (a) Self-esteem is necessary to a well-developed personality. Joseph’s brothers were denied a good feeling about themselves because of their father’s inordinate affection for Joseph. The scripture tells us that Israel loved Joseph more than all his children.
- (b) A person deprived of self-esteem turns inward and becomes self-centered and angry. When the brothers had opportunity to vent their pent up anger, they seized the opportunity with open arms. Judah and the other brothers had little or no concern for Joseph, but Judah, who was more cunning than the others, saw a way to make some bucks while getting rid of the hated Joseph. Judah suggested that they sell him and make something on the deal instead of killing him.
- (c) Joseph was a typical daddy’s boy - spoiled rotten no doubt. For his father he could do no wrong, while they could probably do little that was right. It would have been exceedingly difficult to like the apple of their father’s eye. At this point in his life, and because of their jealousy, they made no effort to love Joseph.

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Coping in Mind Spirit and Body in a time of a Pan- demic “Covid -19” By

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Managing Director
Nibbs & Associates

Consultant- Business, Tourism, Human Resources



“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.”

Throughout our lifetime, crises of different types have challenged us. Some economic, others natural disasters or social crises. How we interpret, react and bounce back from the crises of today are what will define how we survive crises of tomorrow.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has been described as the “unknown enemy” we are at war with the biggest health crisis. It has been characterized with “Uncertainty” “Fear” and “Worry.” It is a health crisis that has invaded the world penetrating the bloodstream of the world’s economic life.

First, the Uncertainty: we do not yet fully know our enemy.

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing—or has already changed our collective view of uncertainty, both health and economic but there is no reference case for the COVID-19 crisis in living memory. There have been flu pandemics, financial crisis, and localized threats and disasters e.g. hurricanes with regional and national implications, e.g. Hurricane Irma. But from our vantage point, the COVID-19 pandemic is more global in scope, more profoundly impactful and far-reaching and more complex than any other crisis that today’s population has experienced or contemplated.

Instead of panicking and stockpiling goods e.g. toilet paper that others can’t find, we should be asking: *How can we as a church and I as an individual help those in need?*

Our attitude toward COVID-19 and its uncertainty should be marked by the Christian virtue of *measured concern* not panicking but heeding our Saviour’s encouraging warning, “Do not be anxious about your

life ... Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul”

Secondly the Fear Factor: Let’s be real: everyday fear is a companion joining us whenever we venture out to supermarkets, pharmacies, hospitals or just to get a basic service, as wearing a mask would always remind us. So much about coronavirus (COVID-19) is outside of our control. Not just the virus itself, but all the other aspects of life that might be impacted, from work and finances to socializing and travel. Give yourself credit as you cope with this tough time and recognize that dealing with this challenge can make you more resilient.

Feeling stressed is an understandable response to the current coronavirus pandemic.

You might be worried about contracting the virus, about how your loved ones will cope, about the disruption to your studies and routines, and about whether you’ll still have a job and enough money.

These stressors, along with travel bans, events being cancelled, and the constant media hysteria are enough to (bring on mental meltdowns and the contemplation of ending one’s life).

Through faith in God and out of love for neighbors, Christians must think first how to contribute to the physical and spiritual care of those who are vulnerable, self-isolated, sick, or dying.

The Christian’s walk should be grounded in Faith not Fear

The third area is Worry; The biggest area of worry for most people is finances. Some of us have lost jobs, revenue, income just to name a few. But with a plan and a realignment of your life you can make it. First, look at your budget/expenditure and do a re-evaluation.

Start assessing your budget/expenditure and determine what are the cuts that you need to consider as cutting costs can make getting through the current financial situation less stressful. Before you can do that, you first need to understand where and how you’re spending. Whether you have a budget in place, or you don’t, make a detailed list of everything you spend money on in a normal month. Start with your fixed expenses first.

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Advance the Kingdom ~ S.H.I.F.T

This **includes everything** you have to spend money on each month to maintain a basic standard of living, such as:

- Housing
- Utilities
- Food
- Insurance
- Loans

Make a second list of variable expenses, including discretionary spending. This list may include things such as:

- Clothing
- Hobbies and entertainment
- Personal care or self-care
- Recreation
- Dining out
- Shopping

The key is to put every expense in your budget into its own category. Another way to think of it is like this: must-haves, need-to-haves and nice-to-haves.

Assess if you can still save despite your new financial circumstances. Needs and Wants.....I have had no choice but to walk the talk as I am a self-employed Professional with most of my business opportunities rooted in the Tourism Industry.

So, let's look at a practical example that you most definitely can relate to:

Most people own a smartphone. So, in using your phone you notice it is low on battery, and no charging opportunities exist. So, you adjust, and you are aware there is actually no capacity for your luxuries, for example - browsing or social media streaming of videos, you just need to look at the basics of making calls and sending out messages... doing the bare essentials.

This is a situation that all are in, I personally have made a conscious effort to cut spending even though I am frugal.

I have used this Pandemic as a "Fiscal transformation opportunity" Backyard Gardening

"During stressful times like these, taking up something that rewards you as well as helps you keep positive is definitely a bonus

We are in crisis mode, prioritizing your expenses matters. For example, paying the rent or your mortgage and keeping the lights on should naturally take precedence over buying new clothes.

Some of the extras you may be able to immediately cut from your budget include:

- Dining out
- Entertainment
- Clothes
- Travel
- Extracurriculars for kids
- Electronics and gadgets
- Gym memberships
- Unnecessary subscriptions

Ordinarily, removing these things from your budget might be painful. But if you are being diligent about social distancing and staying home, then cutting out these expenses may be less of an ordeal.

Another nice-to-have expense category to cut is anything that's outsourced. For example, if you pay someone for lawn care or housekeeping, those are expenses you could temporarily put on pause.

The goal is to trim as much of the fat as possible from your budget to preserve as much of your income and savings as possible.

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.
-2 Timothy 1:7

Quote of the Day

"You're braver than you believe,
and stronger than you seem,
and smarter than you think."

-- A. A. Milne

Food and Nutrition Security is Everybody's Business

By Dr. Norma Samuel

CARICOM has a staggering food import bill estimated at



US\$5 billion. CARICOM countries have long held goals of achieving food and nutrition security (FNS). FNS is “when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit, 2006). Some

countries have made significant strides towards this goal while others still have a long way to go. Check out the progress in Food and Agriculture Organization's Study on the State of Agriculture in the Caribbean released in 2019. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4726en/ca4726en.pdf>.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the immediate need for small island developing states to reduce their dependence on imported food. Achieving FNS is not just the responsibility of the government. It is everybody's business. Here are a few ideas of how you can help Antigua and Barbuda achieve its goal of becoming a food and nutrition secure nation.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the immediate need for small island developing states to reduce their dependence on imported food. Achieving FNS is not just the responsibility of the government. It is everybody's business. Here are a few ideas of how you can help Antigua and Barbuda achieve its goal of becoming a food and nutrition secure nation.

1. Change your food consumption pattern. Eat more locally grown foods instead of highly processed imported foods, which have low nutritional value and can cause health problems.

When dining out, seek out restaurants that promote the farm to table/fork concept as they are purchasing produce directly from farmers or the vegetable market to prepare your meal.

2. Plant a backyard garden. The Extension Division within the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, and Barbuda Affairs has a backyard garden initiative, where they provide seedlings to persons interested in growing a garden. Whether you have a small or large backyard, a beginning or experienced gardener, contact the Extension

Division in your area for more information. They can help you with questions about how to get your garden started, or to answer questions such as: pest identification and control, or fertilizing your crops.

3. **Support local farmers.** Visit the vegetable market or supermarket and purchase fruits and vegetables that are grown in your territory or other Caribbean islands. If the demand for local produce is there farmers will be able to get their produce sold. The ED trains farmers in good agricultural practices (GAP) to ensure they adopt practices that will reduce the possibility of contamination of the fruits and vegetables by microorganisms and pesticides.
4. **Encourage youth to pursue careers in agriculture.** There's a saying that goes “No Farm No Food”. We all need food to survive, so encourage youth to take agriculture science in school. This curriculum will give them exposure to production agriculture and the numerous other careers involved in your food getting from the farm to your table. I'm a product of the agriculture science program at Jennings Secondary School.

There are over 100 careers related to agriculture. A few examples are: entomologist – a person who studies insects; food scientist – may specialize in product development, food chemistry, or food safety; biotechnology – a person who engages in breeding techniques related to plants and animals; agricultural engineer – a person who designs and improve farming equipment, food lawyer – a person who studies laws and regulations related to production, marketing, and consumption of food.

5. **Become an advocate for the agricultural sector.** Encourage your political representative to make agriculture a national priority. Ask them to: heavily invest financial and human capital and infrastructure to support the agriculture sector; ensure civil servants working in the sector are paid competitive wages to keep them motivated to stay in the field; promote agritourism, etc.

Accept the challenge! Do your part in helping Antigua and Barbuda and other CARICOM nations achieve their goal of food and nutrition security.

Dr. Norma Samuel is a native of Antigua and Barbuda. She's an Extension Agent with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (UF/IFAS) Extension. She is Chair of the Executive Committee of Caribbean Agriculture Extension Providers' Network, and President of the Board of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services. You can subscribe to her Let's Talk Gardening YouTube Channel for gardening tips. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpl5EWPz2TYniC8m-EQIo6w>

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- (d) While selling him might have been better than having his brother's innocent blood on his hands, a person has reached the depths when he profits at the expense of others, especially his own family. It would have been a sad commentary on Judah if this is all that was ever written of him. God was good in allowing him to live long enough to overcome his greed and deep-seated hatred. Life can be unfair along the way, but God is able to supply the grace whereby we are able to live above the injustice that life meets out.

II. Responsible Living (Gen. 43:8-10)

8 *Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.*

9 I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. 10 For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."

- (a) A later chapter in the life of Judah shows him as a person with compassion and growing maturity. In the years since we met him in Chapter 37, Judah has developed a sense of responsibility. It would be interesting to know what caused Judah to change. Perhaps he was ashamed of his actions towards his little brother Joseph or perhaps his conscience kept accusing him. He might secretly have confessed his sin to God, though not to his father, and so allowed God to make him a more caring person.
- (b) In Chapter 43, the spotlight focuses on Judah at a time of famine when the brothers need to buy grain in Egypt. On an earlier shopping jaunt to Egypt Judah and his brothers dealt with the Egyptian leader, Joseph, whom they did not recognize. Joseph wanting to see his full brother Benjamin, made Benjamin's presence a stipulation to their being ever able to buy more grain. Imagine Judah having to put this proposition to the aged Israel who had never really recovered from the loss of Joseph.
- c) Judah was ready to stake his life for the life of Benjamin. This was more than he had been prepared to do for the last favourite son of Israel - Joseph. In the very strongest words Judah promised to safeguard the life of Benjamin. This illustrated growth in love on the part of Judah.
- (d) Such responsible action was unknown to Judah only a few years before, but with experience and age comes compassion and understanding. It was to Judah's

credit that he was prepared to make a contribution to the welfare of the family, where in the instance of Joseph he was unwilling to take a stand for a family member.

- (e) In the current Pandemic, when we as Christians are being called upon to be our Brother's keeper and in which one way of doing this has been articulated in the establishment of pantries in order to feed the hungry and unemployed, some would say: The Church shouldn't get involved in that. Leave that to Lions, Rotary and other service clubs.

III. Sacrificial Living. (Gen. 44:30-34)

30 *"Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life, 31 it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. 32 For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.' 33 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. 34 For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"*

- (a) The third passage sees Judah moving to a third level of brotherly love. Not only does he engage in responsible living, but he becomes involved in sacrificial living. Indeed, meaningful fulfillment is found at the level of selfless giving. It is only as one learns to live for others and deny oneself through self-sacrifice that one can be truly said to be demonstrating sacrificial living. Those who learn only to get and never to give find life to be as dry as sawdust and just as tasteless.
- (b) Judah's journey toward a higher level of living met another challenge when the Egyptian official's cup was discovered in Benjamin's sack of grain. When Judah learned to his horror that Joseph would keep the alleged thief as his servant, he who sold off his brother years before, offered himself in Benjamin's place. Judah and his brothers were free to go home if they left Benjamin, but Judah had grown as a man since the last time he grieved his father. Not only had he become a responsible person, but he had also learned what it meant to sacrifice self for the sake of another.
- (c) Judah begged Joseph to let Benjamin go home with the rest of the brothers. He gave three arguments. First, grief would kill their father, Israel, if Benjamin did not come home. Second, Judah had sworn to bring

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Birthday Celebrants for June

Sis. Stacey Herbert-Mannix	2
Sis. Sharon McCardy Joseph	5
Bro. Nigel Daniel	5
Sis. Bernadine Chase	7
Bro. Charles Peters	7
Sis. Rena Warner-Francis	11
Bro. Calvin Isaac	13
Sis. Joycelyn Connor	17
Bro. Selvin McMillan	25
Sis. Elva Richards- Goodwin	25
Sis. Karen Challenger-George	26
Sis. Jasmin Crooks	26
Sis. Roslyn Hamblin	29



Birthday Celebrants up to mid July

Sis. Ida Brown	3
Sis. Movelle Kellman	5
Sis. La-Verne Richards	6
Sis. Yvanne Jean	7
Bro. Winston Chase	8
Bro. Anselm Richards	9
Bro. Michael Goodwin	9
Bro. Neilson Waithe	10
Bro. Ralph Prince	11
Bro. Colbourne Walters	14
Sis. Karen Challenger-George	26



Anniversary Celebrants for June up to mid-July

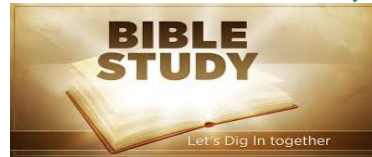
Bro. Reuben & Sis. Ivy Vessup	June 01
Bro. Kirk & Sis. Nicole Barker	June 24
Sis. Elva Richards Goodwin & Bro. Michael Goodwin	June 23
Bro. Colin & Sis. Anique Matthew	July 04
Bro. Nigel & Sis. Belinda Daniel	July 06
Bro. Neilson & Sis. Vera Waithe	July 07
Sis. Karen Challenger-George & Bro. Dave George	July 15

Growing in Brotherly Love Continued from page 6

the boy home safely. If he did not do so, he would bear the blame for the rest of his life. Third, Judah said he couldn't go back to his father if Benjamin were not with him. We see here that Judah had learned a great lesson, that there are some things more important than one's own life. In Judah's case the life of his little brother was more important than his own.

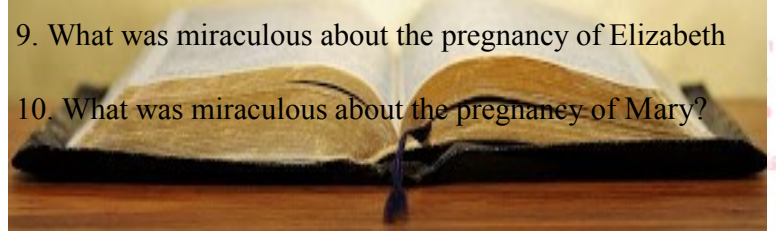
(d) Judah had grown from a selfish, callous, and vindictive man in Chapter 37 to a responsible person and finally to a loving, caring, and giving person. Judah had a younger brother Benjamin to whom the father was partial. The circumstances had changed little since the selling of Joseph into slavery; the great change was in Judah.

Will the circumstances of COVID-19 move us from selfishness to true brotherly love?



Please use the King James version of the Bible and answer all questions. **Luke 1: 1– 36**

1. Who was King of Judea at the time of Jesus' birth?
2. What did Aaron, Zachariah and Abijah have in common as vocation?
3. How was the particular priest to be on duty chosen?
4. What name was to be given to the son of Elizabeth?
5. With whose spirit and power would the child go forth?
6. What was the name of the angel?
7. Why was Zachariah made dumb?
8. How did Zachariah communicate with the people who were waiting for him?
9. What was miraculous about the pregnancy of Elizabeth?
10. What was miraculous about the pregnancy of Mary?



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Moravian Multipurpose Complex



Conference Center & Apartments



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Answers to Bible Quiz

1. Herod	2. Priest	3. By Lot	4. John	5. Elias	6. Gabriel	7. He did not believe	8. He beckoned to them	9. conceived her son in her old age	10. She was a Virgin
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