



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)

August, 2021



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chairman of PEC

O Let Your Power Fall

Genesis 11: 1-9
August 13, 2020

*We are together again praising the Lord,
We are together again in one accord
Something good is going to happen
Something good is in store
We are together again, praising the Lord.*

My sisters and brothers, wherever you are participating in the worship event, it is great that we are together again. It may not be our regular way of getting together but God has provided the technology so

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that we could see our sisters and brothers in other Conferences as we worship. Thanks to all our technicians, we get to be part of a joint worship service. Sometimes, we are afraid to embrace the technology, leaving it for emerging generations. It is God who gives the intellect for the technology and we should be the first to see how it will help us to do God's work.

Speaking of technology, I want to point us to Genesis 11: 1-9 which talks about the story of Babel. This familiar story becomes our focus for today. We see this nation of people about to build their civilization. As the civilization grows, they recognize that they need to build a tower and somehow, they discovered the technology that allows them to build bricks. Before this time there was nothing called bricks. They never had to build anything of significance and so there was no need. When they thought of the tower, they had to come up with a way to get it built, they had to come up with the technology. I grew up hearing that necessity is the mother of invention. I wonder what God may be laying on someone's heart, even now, that needs to be invented to meet the current conditions.

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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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God knows our needs before we do and reveals and plans for the path ahead.

The people decided to build a city with a tower to make a name for themselves. Building a city was an excellent idea but the reason was less than noble. In other words, **THE INTENTIONS WERE GOOD BUT THE MOTIVE WAS BAD.** The technology is not the problem, it is what the invention is used for that runs foul with God. In this time we need to reflect on how can we become a habitation for the Spirit of God. Yes, the Spirit is already present among us. We have stories of how the Spirit of God has prompted and moved us into and out of places. But how can this body, this Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, become a habitation for the continual leadership of the Holy Spirit. I suggest that our intentions and our motives must align with the purposes of God.

Our intentions and motives affect every area of service in the church. Motive speaks of the why or the why not of our actions. It affects our attendance, our giving, our involvement, our commitment, our attitude toward church. What are your motives and intentions with regard to church now? Do they line-up with what God is doing or do they just align with our cleverly thought-out plans? God is looking for partners to do the will of God, not to make names for ourselves. God is looking for a people who just want to be a cog in the machine rather than run the machine. Where are our intentions and motives? If we are to become a habitation for the power of God, for the Spirit of God, if we are to be a church led by the Spirit of God our intentions and motives must align with God.

As the story unfolds, we recognize that fear of being scattered over the face of the whole earth was the one thing that brought them together and made them successful. I say successful

because their actions caused God to come see the city and tower. If you remember very little from this sermon, remember that – **UNITY ATTRACTS THE GAZE AND PRESENCE OF GOD.** What do I mean? Verse five already told us that God came down to see.

Hear God in verse 6 – “Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.” Someone has referred to this as technology for guaranteed success. God says, this unity will get you anything you need. Jesus comes along later saying, “truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven” (Matthew 18:19). Unity attracts the gaze and presence of God. Maybe that is why it is so hard for us to come together, because it is what God wants.

We live in a time when more than ever, God wants us to come together, to work together because the souls of humanity depend on it. It is always interesting to me that political parties can come together so that they can gain power and rule. But the people of God find it hard to come together for the kingdom’s sake – for people to come to know Christ. How can we attract the gaze of God in this Province? How can we come together so that the Spirit of God might fall? It might very well come back to our motives and intentions. Let not those block the salvation of souls.

I am reasonably confident that it is not lost on any of us that the reason for our coming together is due to the fact that our spiritual forebears were able to attract the gaze and presence of God. It was on August 13, 1727 when amid their differences of opinions and theological positions that the oneness of their sound calling out, attracted God’s attention and presence and

God came down. Their intentions and motives were not to be right but to be used by God. They wanted to be instruments in the hand of God and God heard their cry. We know that miraculous things happened – people talked to one another, forgave one another, loved one another, worked with one another. It was a move of God because the people were one in heart. One of the miracles of that day is us – from that Moravian Pentecost, missionaries came out to the Caribbean. If there was no oneness before God, maybe we would not have been here today.

It makes me wonder, what move of God are we standing in the way of in this season because we are fragmented. God is after our oneness. God is after our unity. Verse 6 provides this technology for guaranteed success – one people, one language leads to success. For the power to fall among us, for us being a habitation for the Spirit of God, we must be one. This is where someone might ask for the formula for oneness. Can I just tell you my brothers and sisters, this is God's work? What is required of us is the willingness to follow. I have work to do, you have work to do. We all need to move out from our flesh positions for divine purpose. God is calling for us to reach back for this usable past of August 13, 1727, and act in this spirit.

This story does not end on a good note. God decides that this must stop because they found a technology that gives them the advantage and God must be the spoiler. Pay close attention to God's actions. God determined to confuse their language and shut down the building process. If the power of God is to be manifested among us, **OUR LANGUAGE/SPEECH MUST BE ABOUT GOD.** What does that really mean? Speaking a different language is a small matter. Why do I say this? Look at Pentecost which is the completion of the Babel narrative. They

spoke different languages, but they all said the same things – the wonderful works of God.

I am forced to look at my language. Am I more focused on what COVID-19 is doing or on what God is doing? Is the focus on the technology or on how God will get the glory from this? I wonder if I talk too much about my feelings rather than about what God wants to do through me. If the Holy Spirit is to have a habitation among us in a transformative way, our language must be giving glory to God and not our fears.



It is risky business to have the Holy Spirit move freely among us. The great things that happened the last time should encourage us to go bravely into God's future rather than trust ours.

The lesson from Babel challenges us to step up, to get our motives right, to desire the gaze and presence of God, and speak of the greatness of God. Are there people in this Province of the Moravian Church ready? Are we ready for a move of God among us now?

Let us get in place.



Pastors and Churches Ask, “Now What?” - Equipping each other for post-pandemic life and ministry

by Michael Binder Ph.D.
(Luther Seminary)

For many months life seemed to slow down. There were a lot less in-person gatherings. Many activities had to stop. The rhythms of our lives were disrupted in some significant ways. We all had to learn how to do life in some ways we weren't used to - trying to work and stay connected while not being around people in the same ways we were accustomed to doing. It's been a lot for everyone.

Now life is changing again. Things seem to be speeding up. Calendars are filling up with activities again. People are starting to get back together. Churches are beginning to get back into rhythms of meeting and doing ministry that looks more like pre-pandemic life. Yet, there are a lot of questions about the future. Questions about what will happen next with COVID. Questions about how we want to live together as we approach (hopefully) post-pandemic life.

Many people don't want to go back to living a wildly busy life. Many people realize there is no “going back to the way things were” after what we've all been through. We've learned some lessons during the pandemic we don't want to lose track of. We realize there are some shifts we'd like to make, but we're not sure how to make them.

Many church leaders wonder if they will be able to find enough volunteers to get the programs and ministry offerings of the church running the way they used to run. This is challenging for a number of reasons. First, not

everyone has the same level of comfort engaging with others because of the continuing uncertainty related to COVID. And people have strong opinions about how we ought to be approaching COVID. Another reason this is challenging is because leaders wonder if we even should try to offer the same programs and ministry opportunities we were offering before. We have a sense we need to adjust and offer more hybrid (online and in-person) opportunities, but it's not clear how to do that or who is going to do it.

I want to make a couple of suggestions for congregations during this time of figuring out post-pandemic life. These are based on a few of the lessons I think we've learned during the pandemic that we want to integrate into our life together.

Lesson #1: We don't need life to be as busy as it was.

As congregations, we shouldn't rush to fill our church calendars as full as we can. We need to leave some space in our schedules to discover the opportunities God is putting in front of us now. **The goal can't be to “get back to normal” as quickly as possible.** We need a period of time to try some new ways of being church that maybe involve less church activities.

This needs to be stated by the leaders of congregations so that pastors and key leaders don't feel pressure to get everything up and running like it was as soon as possible. Instead of expecting our leaders to help us ramp things back up, we need our leaders to help us process what we've been through and what God might be calling us to do next. How might we create a light weight and low maintenance approach to this season of church life so that we don't get overwhelmed trying to “get back to normal?”

Lesson #2: We've all been through a lot.

The theme I keep hearing from many people is about the need for healing during this time. The pandemic has impacted all of us in very different ways. It continues to impact us, and people all around the world, in life changing ways. Beyond COVID, we continue to struggle with essential questions about racial justice. The events and conversations over the past couple years have profoundly impacted our understanding of how we're divided along racial lines. There seems to be very little space to process the impact of these events.

We need some simple, repeatable practices that offer opportunity for healing. One practice might be simply asking others to share what their life has been like the last year or two years. Give other people space just to share their story with you. There is some healing that can occur just by giving people a chance to share and acknowledging how hard it has been. It would be great if our practice of gathering as church created these kinds of opportunities for story sharing during this time.

Lesson #3: Many people are searching for meaning.

The last couple years have raised some very deep questions for just about everyone. What really is meaningful to me in life? What do I want my life to be about? Who do I need to stay connected with? Where has God been in the midst of all of this? These questions (and many more I'm sure) are being asked by lots of people, not just people in congregations. This seems to me to be an opportunity God's Spirit is opening up that could ***help people find how God is central to the meaning of their life.*** How might God be inviting followers of Jesus to help people process these kinds of questions as we enter this next season of life together?

One of my fears is that congregations are going to be so busy trying to figure out how to get all their ministries and programs up and running that they will miss the opportunities to help people process these questions. ***Empowering Christians in this season needs to focus on helping them have eyes to see and ears to hear what God is doing in the lives of the people around them.*** We need to help people notice these opportunities and feel confident stepping into them.

This can be as simple as asking a neighbour/co-worker/friend to share what life has been like for them during COVID and listening well to their story. It can mean offering to pray for healing as a response to the many challenges people have faced. It might mean experimenting with online or in-person gatherings simply focused on helping people talk about what they've learned from living through the pandemic and what they think is most important to focus on going forward.

Much of Jesus' ministry focused on healing. All kinds of healing: spiritual, emotional, physical, relational, financial, etc. Wherever Jesus went, he always offered healing. Many of the people who sought Jesus out needed healing.

We are certainly in a period of time where we all need healing. We don't just need to get back to normal. ***We need Jesus to heal us.*** And we need to learn some new ways God may be inviting us to offer that healing to other people. While that might sound intimidating, maybe it doesn't need to be. Jesus empowered his followers to offer healing to those around him. He did that by teaching them to be with other people, listen to them, and pray for them. What if empowering people in our congregations focused on that, in this time?



Time to
CELEBRATE!

Happy
Birthday

To Celebrants - August 20th—30th

Sis. Winelle Kirton-Roberts	20
Bro. Reuben Vessup	22
Sis. Anique Elmes-Matthew	22
Erwin Warner	24
Bro. Conrad Spencer	29
Sis. Angela Frederick	30



Ordination Anniversaries

Bro. Frank Alvin Barker 1 August 15, 1963
 Bro. Selvin McMillan August 11, 1974
 Bro. Charles Peters August 24, 1975
 Bro. Neilson Waithe August 8, 1982
 Bro. Matthew Crooks August 16, 1993
 Bro. Mikie Roberts August 16, 1993
 Bro. Adrian Smith August 17, 2003
 Sis. Vera Waithe August 17, 2003
 Sis. Catherine Governor-Browne August 16, 2015
 Bro. Kevin St. Hill August 30, 2018

To Celebrants - September 2nd—10th

Bro. Colin Matthew	2
Sis. Cynthia Hill	3
Bro. Walton Frederick	7
Sis. Myrtle Isaac	8
Bro. Keith Horsford	10

Happy
Anniversary

**To Celebrants—August 18th—29th
and September 1st—5th**

Quote of the Day

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

— Nelson Mandela—

Bro. Daniel Mark & Sis. Callisha Greenidge-Mark	18
Bro. Selvin McMillan & Sis. June McMillan	20
Bro. Kevin St. Hill & Dr. Shanele Chase-St. Hill	25
Bro. Dion Christopher & Sis. Eulencine Christopher	29
Sis. Catherine Governor-Browne & Bro. Shelfor Browne	29
Bro. Ezra Parris & Sis. Julie Joefield-Parris	05

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Find each word and click its first letter then its last letter to highlight it. After you have found all the words, click the leftover letters to form the *mystery answer*.

Cities in The Bible

Achaia,	Cana,	Galilee,	Jericho,
Antioch,	Caria,	Gibeon,	Jerusalem,
Arabia,	Cilicia,	Gilead,	Judah,
Assyria,	Corinth,	Greece,	Lebanon,
Babel,	Damascus,	Haran,	Lustrate,
Beersheba,	Egypt,	Hatti,	Midian,
Berea,	Elim,	Hebron,	Moab,
Bethel,	Emmaus,	India,	Palestine,
Bethlehem,	Ethiopia,	Jaffa,	Nineveh,
Persia,	Rome,	Samaria,	Sinai,
Zeredathah,	Zorah	Mount Zion,	

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Your Turn

What ministry experiments will you try, to create space for people to share what they've been through and what next steps they want to take?

Perhaps start here, paid staff and lay leaders together: Make a short list of people in your life that might be willing to share their experience of the pandemic with you. Invite them to talk, listen to them well, and offer to pray for them as they figure out their next steps.

Keep a list of the healing needs of those you listen to and bring those needs to the whole congregation to be offered up in prayer to God. This is one way we might be able to offer the healing of Jesus to those around us. What other ways might we do this together?

This is a time of opportunity. The Spirit of God is at work. As tempting as it is to try and get things back to normal, let's pray God would show us the opportunities that exist all around us to love our neighbours in the name of Jesus.

Reprinted from <https://faithlead.luthersem.edu>



1. True or False: The Bible is the most popular book ever written. (by copies sold)
2. What is the first book in the Bible?
3. How many days did God take to create the world?
4. Who was the first man?
5. Who was the first woman?
6. Where did Adam and Eve live at the beginning of the world?
7. Who were their three sons listed in the Bible?
8. Who did God tell to build an ark?
9. How many days and nights did it rain when Noah was on the ark?
10. What was God's sign to Noah that he would never destroy the earth again?



Moravian Multipurpose Complex

Conference Center & Apartments



Conferences

Weddings

Banquets

Meetings

Dinners

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 over-looking the picturesque out-skirts of the city of St. John's, Antigua.

There are EIGHT LARGE APARTMENTS which are available for rental. Each room is self contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air-conditioned with available internet cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.

mystery answer
Mesopotamia

1. True
2. Genesis
3. 6
4. Adam
5. Eve
6. Garden of Ede
7. Cain, Abel, Seth
8. Noah
9. 40
10. A Rainbow

Answer to Bible Trivia