



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)

February, 2021

WITHOUT WALLS



Rev. Dr. Errol Connor
Vice Chairman of PEC

It is still a most iconic moment in the world's geopolitical history: President Reagan's bold yet simple declaration, "Mr Gorbachev, tear down that wall." It represents a moment in time, when US-Soviet relations were in a good place of reason and trust. The decades old "Berlin Wall" that had separated families and peoples of the same country was torn down, and life sprung with renewed engagement and wonder in Germany. Life is better, exceedingly better without that wall.

Life without walls speaks to our deepest desires to be free both in the physical sense and our spiritual essence - "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free...(Gal. 5:1)." This is so

much more a thing to be wrestled with in a COVID restricted or post-COVID world environment. It is the thing to be wrestled with as we consider what is required by the Provincial Vision Statement as well as what is directed by the Provincial Mission Statement. To be sure, we cannot be "A Church United, Victorious, Transformed," if we are a church with walls - Inter-spatial or interpersonal walls have to go. Walls serve to protect but walls also prevent. Walls must not stand in the way of the Great Commandments or the Great Commission: "He is our peace who has broken down every wall...(Eph. 2:14). This He has done so that "peoples may come from far and near; from east, west, north and south, and sit down together in the Kingdom of God," sharing fellowship in Christ, the one hope of salvation in the world (Matt. 8:11).

The world and our very lives are filled with walls of our own making. It is our task, wherever these obstruct, prevent or slow the advancement of the kingdom, to tear those walls down. There should be no walls to reaching the poor and under-served, the vulnerable and disadvantaged, the oppressed and outcast, the sick and forgotten.

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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

Without Walls Continued from Page 1

This means that we must climb beyond the walls of our comfort zones. We must “Mother Teresa” the neighborhoods. All of this requires boldness and the willingness to sacrifice; a basic spirit of Christian charity and hospitality. We suffer a great spiritual wall of imbalance when we treat iniquity as a moral failure (which it is) but disregard inequity: the structural and systemic sinful behaviour that is often not equated to morality. Yet, we can all agree that justice is a prerequisite of peace. Moreover, equality in human relations elevates the person and adds value to each life in ways that reduce our tendency to sin and immoral behaviour. To be sure, inequity results in injustices and underlies the reality of the haves and the have nots. Both inequity and iniquity interfere with God’s plan in Christ: to reconcile the world to God. The grace of God embraces all. It brings us peace and sets us free to be and to become all that God’s love allows. Grace marks the ministry of the faithful. Because of grace, we are not shut in and none is shut out.

There should be no walls as we seek revolutionize the ethos or culture of being walled in. The congregation of the faithful must be open-armed and open-hearted. We must genuinely desire and invite wider participation. The ethos and culture of being “walled in” leaves too great a focus on us and too small a focus on how we join God in His mission in the world: “What is Jesus doing”, as a professor of mine would say, is the essential question. You see, the ethos or culture of being walled in is a by-product of the institution of church in terms of hierarchy and traditions. One way to foster change is to move more thoroughly from clericalism to the priesthood of all believers. Equip the saints for the work of ministry. We may best do this through an uncompromising, live or die commitment to discipling the community through the love of Christ and the loving, relational networks that involve family, friends, colleagues, strangers and foes. Often it begins with a simple act of kindness; the consistency of faith in practice, leading to big results. Let’s have a disciple-making shift of focus in the way we do church. Each one reaches one and teaches one to become one, a disciple-maker for the good and for God.

A church without walls educates its members because an educated church, is a potentiated spiritual force in a sea of change. Of course, we live in a rapidly changing world environment. Daily, we are besieged by information overload and a dizzying array of choices. A mesmerizing plethora of stimuli bombard the senses, creating a sizzling rise in naked, fleshly desires. Therefore, we are expected to provide instruction in wisdom and promote the discriminating power of faith in the midst of life. To accomplish the greatest good, we must educate church members for growth in spiritual life and service; and we must educate the masses to display kingdom loyal attitudes in performance of civic responsibilities. Bishop John A. Comenius stated that we should “teach all things to all persons from all points of view.” This is perhaps more relevant today than before. For, how do we prepare our children and the youths in our neighborhood for the profitable and prudent choices that will accrue to their lasting material and spiritual good; or to take their places in life and contribute to the common good; to discover their purpose in God and to be assured of their place in His kingdom and their valued place in the world? How do we contribute to their social and emotional learning? What do studies in social and emotional intelligence reveal about the person and personal development and/or interpersonal coping abilities? We need to be out there where the battle for the soul is raging. Education is liberation and liberation brings salvation - freedom is still fundamental, justice is still necessary, mercy is a must, and happiness or fulfillment is the quest that yet governs life. Education opens the mind and heart to embrace, help and serve others.

Without walls means a warm Christian welcome and a full-hearted embrace of persons of low estate as persons of high degree. Is this not the commitment that faith expects? Is this not the faith that God has chosen (Isaiah 58:6)? We are required to commend to love, not condemn to hell. For God so loved that he gave: He did not send His son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world with love (Jn 3:16-17). We, like the Apostle Paul, must assert that it is but for grace. We are all sinners saved by grace. Without distinction, we serve each other. We provide a place.

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

We create a sense of belonging, not by condoning any unhealthy behaviour but by communicating and exemplifying the love of God. There is too much moralizing and too little mercy, too many complaints and too little compassion, too much emphasis of power and too little emphasis on purpose, plenty who run with passion but too little patience. Admittedly, "the love of God is greater far..." This we sing and this we must show to be true.

Constrained by the love of Christ and less by the rituals/traditions of the Church - these must be continually updated and refreshed - we go forward. Such walls as exist are often fortified by fear of the unknown: that which comes with the new, the different or the changing. We must love. We must listen. We must learn. We must lead with both head and heart. We must show care and concern for each other, committed to leaving no one behind. You see, the threads of each life as God wills it, contribute to the richness, hue, and hopeful weave of the fabric of our life together. The varied threads of the weave are a reminder that there is so much that unites us; so much that promotes and strengthens us in victory; and so much that by concerted effort will lead to God's transforming presence amongst us as on August 13th, 1727. The persons we are called to be, and the persons we must share with and learn to live with in society are not by accidental design. We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Eph. 2:10)...Let us then provoke one another to love and good works (Heb. 10:24). We must do good to all (family, friend or foe), especially to those who are of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10). Jesus said, "By this shall all people know that you are my disciples if you love one another (Jn. 13:35)."

So go ahead, Advance the Kingdom: gear up and SHIFT to the experience of a church without walls!

Provincial Watchword 2021

The Provincial Board of the European Continental Province (ECP) has drawn the Watchword for each Province and Unity Undertaking for 2021.

The watchword drawn for the Eastern West Indies Province (EWIP) is **"He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth."** Psalm 105:7. The watchword is assigned for April 3, 2021.



Unity Prayer Day Offering 2021

March 07, 2021, is Unity Sunday. At this time of year, we remember the birth of the Unitas Fratrum, the Moravian Church, on March 1, 1457. We ask for your continued prayers for the work and witness of our Church.

A special Unity offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Sunday March 7, 2021. This offering will go towards constructing a multipurpose hall in Malawi in Africa.



Quote of the Day

LOVE is patient,
is kind.

It always **protects**, always **trusts**,
always **hopes**, always **perseveres**.

LOVE NEVER FAILS

1 Corinthians 13:4,7-8

Governance and the Church.

By Shirlene A. Nibbs MBE

Member of the Governance Committee of
Jollyes, subsidiary of Moravian Church
Foundation (MCF)

Governance refers to the framework of rules, relationships, systems and processes within and by which authority is exercised and controlled within an organisation.

It encompasses the mechanisms by which an organisation and those in control are held to account.

In a nutshell, it has two elements:

- Rules, Systems and Processes for Exercising Authority
- Mechanisms for Accountability

Most congregations especially in the traditional churches, do not see Churches as organisations that have people, structure and a purpose. Management in these organisations is a business function that provides leadership support to the organizations' resources, to realize strategic goals and objectives. There is a pool of great talents within our churches, and members hold key roles and positions in both private and public sector organisations that could be utilized strategically in church leadership.

While churches are not precisely business organisations, with complex legal requirements such as filing returns and payment of taxes, they engage in activities that require adequate planning and execution, if they are to be successful and impactful to the church's growth and development. Hence, there is a need for an effective governance system for churches that will ensure efficient and effective utilization of resources and management practices in the growth and development of churches.

If you are a church board member, it's critical that you understand the role of your church governing body in relation to your church polity in order to help you understand your role and responsibilities.

It is helpful to start with an understanding of the different types of church governance. Are you

Pastor-led – Pastor-led churches typically have a strong pastor leader with a small board of elders that provides accountability to the pastor.

Board-led – In a board-led church, the board is self-perpetuating. The board selects the pastor and votes on his continuing to serve the congregation.

Congregational – In a congregational model, many or most decisions regarding the functioning of the church are made in a congregational setting, with members voting on decisions. This may include hiring and firing pastors and setting budgets, compensation, programs, capital expenditure

Fiduciary duties are vital in any model, including the duties of care, loyalty, and obedience. Care involves the engagement of the individual and the functioning of members that is prudent and avoids negligence. Loyalty involves serving with devotion to protect the church rather than any conflicted or personal interests. Obedience involves serving within the scope of responsibilities set forth in the charter or governing documents, or both, to be sure that the legal and operational precedents are faithfully followed.

Bring Your Skills and Experience to the Table

As a board member, it's important to bring all of your experience, knowledge, and skills to the leadership/governance table. The board needs your business savvy and experience in its discussions. Many financial and business decision-making principles apply in the church, with proper context. If you would not make a particular decision for your business or profession, why would you make it for the church?

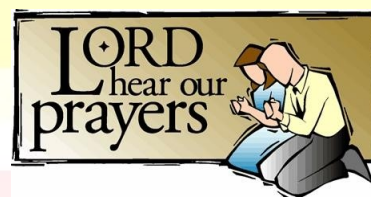
Many churches over-leverage their financial health with debt loads that strain present or future ministry opportunities. Avoid jeopardizing the stability of your church's ministries by maintaining adequate operating cash reserves. Trust your business instincts, lean into your experience, and make that an important part of the conversation in the church board room.

It is also important to ensure that your church is in compliance with all regulatory and governmental agencies. Too many times churches and their boards do not take this seriously. Are you aware of, and in compliance with, fire and safety regulations for your facility? Is someone responsible for making sure all inspections are scheduled and deficiencies are corrected in a timely fashion?

The church, as the light of the world, the ground and pillar of truth has a lot to teach and demonstrate about leadership.

NEW BOOK

We are pleased to announce the publication of the book by Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Nicholas,

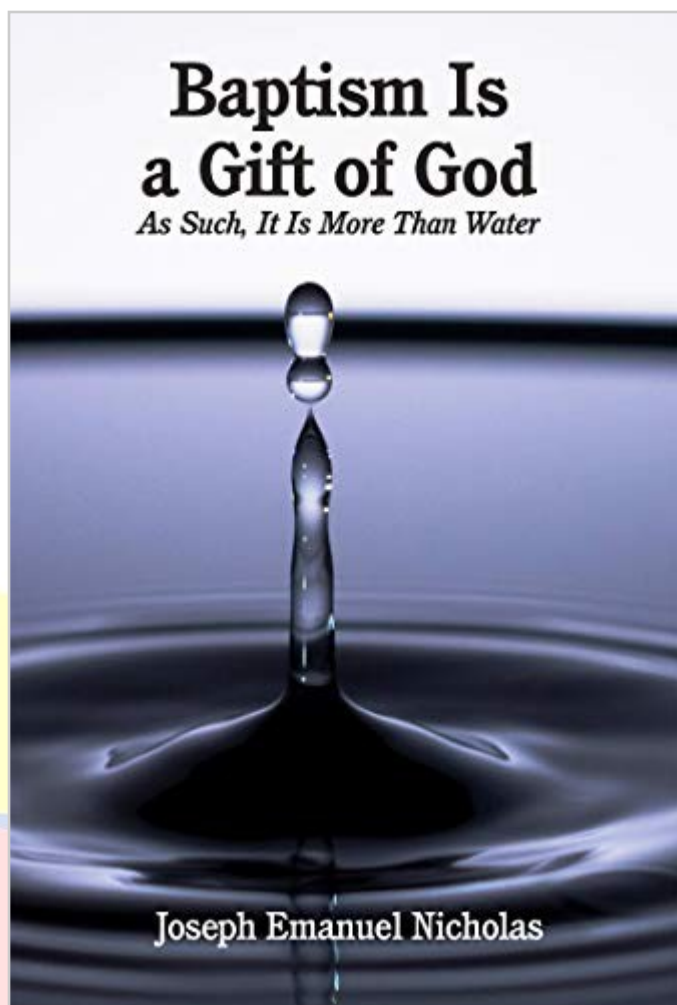


Baptism is a Gift of God – As such, it is more than Water

It has been endorsed by several Ministerial colleagues including some from our Province, the Northern and the Southern Provinces as well as Baptist and Church of God colleagues in Florida.

It is available for \$16.95 plus shipping from store.moravian.org and the ebook version for \$9.99 from Amazon Kindle.

In order to contain the shipping cost to the islands, it is available at US\$18.00 if you order in groups. This is below what most people in the USA would pay when shipping cost is added.



Prayer and Fast for Lent

As we look toward Lent and Easter, the Province is called to an intentional time of prayer and fasting for the duration of Lent. We are encouraged to adhere to the basic principles Daniel followed in Daniel 10: 3 – Prayer, no sweets, no meat, and no alcohol. The Provincial Newsletter for February has more details on the Daniel Fast.

During this period, Mondays – Fridays, scripture verses to guide personal morning reflections and prayer will be distributed. In the evenings, there will be short, impactful devotions beginning at 8pm on Zoom.

Each Conference will lead evening devotions for one week during Lent as follows:

Conference	Devotion Dates	Sub-Theme
Trinidad	February 18-19	Seek
Tobago	February 22-26	Submit
Barbados	March 1-5	Hear and Heed
St. Kitts	March 8-12	Imagination and Insight
Antigua	March 15-19	Focus and Function
Virgin Islands	March 22-26	Total Transformation

The Daniel Fast!...Why?

In the season of Lent which is patterned from Jesus's forty days in the wilderness, many Christians focus on growing their faith. During this time, spiritual practices are used to aid this process of spiritual maturity and growth. Fasting and prayer are spiritual practices that are common during this time.

There are many ways to fast and pray. The Daniel type prayer and fasting is one such example. When Daniel did this in his day (Daniel 10:1-3), he had no idea that his response to seek God in the midst of the chaos of his time, would be noted by anyone, much more have the designation the Daniel fast. The pattern from Daniel can help us with our spiritual discipline of building our faith and drawing closer to God the Lent.

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The Daniel Fast continued from Page 5

The Coronavirus Pandemic caught us flat-footed. We need to hear from God in definite ways about how we should be the church going forward. The church was in decline before the pandemic and the current realities might intensify that trend. There are many wonderful projects to be done that suffer from a lack of resources. The moral fabric of our societies is wearing increasingly thin as time goes by. Truth is, our communities need God and the church now more than ever.

When we find ourselves in this place, our best posture is on our knees, seeking God. God is looking for people who earnestly want to participate with heaven in bringing wholeness to earth. When we add fasting to our prayer, our pursuit of God is intensified. Fasting and prayer should bring our will into submission to the will of God. These twin disciplines are meant to bring us onto God's agenda rather than the other way around. Our focus during prayer and fasting should be on God and what God wants to do through us rather than on what we want.

Daniel sought God! Esther wanted to figure out what God was up to with God's people. Jesus prayed and fasted to prepare himself for the mission of God on the earth. If Jesus, who was so close to God, fasted and prayed, what about us.

The mission of God continues, and we are called to participate in this Daniel fast. Each weekday morning Scripture verses to guide our reflection on the Provincial Theme, SHIFT, will be sent to our pastors for onward sharing. In the evening, there will be short devotions beginning at 8:00 pm on Zoom. Whatever you do, take time to pray about the church, the world, our nations, and our families.

The Daniel fast is preferred in that it allows you to eat (Daniel 10:3). Generally, meat, including fish, and highly processed food are removed from the diet. Alcohol and pastries (sweets) are also off the menu. Fruits, vegetables, beans, and other natural foods stay on. The aim is to bring those desires into submission and focus on your spiritual journey. Make a list of all the things you now eat that are natural and begin to get creative in preparing meals. There are lots of options online.

This journey will not be simple. There will be many cravings for regular food but press on. Pick a time and place for your alone time. Let us give ourselves fully to prayer and allow God to work in and through us.



Birthday Celebrants

February 17th - 24th

Sis. June Mcmillan	17
Bro. Adrian Smith	21
Bro. Errol Connor	21
Sis. Billie Sterling-Lewis	22
Sis. Esther Moore-Roberts	24



Birthday Celebrants

March 7th - 9th

Sis. Alicia Ross	7
Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	8
Bro. Jeremy Francis	9



Anniversary Celebrants February

Bro. Ralph & Sis. Rosalind Prince	2
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The Provincial Board announces the death of the Rev. Robert McCoy Rierson of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Rev. Rierson served in the Eastern West Indies Province as a Student Pastor in St. Croix and as a Pastor at Nisky in St. Thomas in the 1960s. He was also a member of the Provincial Elders Conference. Rev. Rierson was married to Mrs. Annalise Fleming Rierson of St. Croix. He died on January 15, 2021 and was buried on January 20, 2021, at the Salem Moravian Graveyard, Winston Salem.

Please pray for Mrs. Annalise Fleming Rierson and family as they mourn the death of Rev. Robert McCoy Rierson.

Bible Word Search:

Easter

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 to form the **mystery answer**.

Alive,	Jesus,
Angel,	Joy,
Apostles,	Judas,
Appearance,	Magdalene,
Arrest,	Mary,
Barabbas,	Parade,
Betrayed,	Passover,
Calvary,	Peace,
Christ,	Peter,
Church,	Pilate,
Cross,	Priest,
Crucified,	Redeemed,
Death,	Risen,
Eggs,	Romans,
Emmaus,	Rooster,
Garden,	Salvation,
Gethsemane,	Sanhedrin,
Golgotha,	Spring,
Iscariot,	Tomb, Jerusalem,
Trial,	Worship

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A I S P R I N G O H R I S E N
L P A S S O V E R E T R I A L
I B B C A L V A R Y M A S M J
V M B U N P R E D E E M E D E
E O A A H T O G L O G L A D S
R T R G E T H S E M A N E U U
A R A E D C W G T S P I C A S
C R B L R A G O U L F E N C P
H E R O I S L R R I E G A A R
R T S E N P E E C S E S R C I
I S T A S J M U N L H A A J E
S O M B E T R A Y E D I E U S
T O I R A C S I R E T E P D T
R R E H C R U H C Y O J P A R
G A R D E N O I T A V L A S N
  
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With Easter Bible Trivia you can learn about Jesus' Resurrection.

- When Jesus died, which of the following things did **NOT** happen? (Matthew 27: 51-53)
 - There was an earthquake
 - There was a flood that covered the earth
 - The dead came to life
 - The veil of the temple was torn
- Which Jewish feast was celebrated before Jesus' crucifixion?
 - Passover
 - Pentecost
 - Atonement (Yom Kupper)
 - First Fruits
- Who did not see the empty Tomb? (John 20 1-3)
 - Joseph
 - Mary Magdalene
 - Peter
 - John the Beloved
- How many times did Peter deny that he knew Jesus?
 - 2
 - 1
 - 3
 - 0
- What was placed in front of the door of the tomb to close it ?
 - a blanket
 - a fence
 - a wall
 - a stone
- How long did darkness remain over the land after Christ was crucified?
 - 6 hrs
 - 3 days
 - 1 hr
 - 3 hrs
- On what day was Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 27:13)
 - The same day as his crucifixion
 - The third day
 - The fourteenth day
 - The tenth day
- Which of these things did Jesus **NOT** say while He was on the cross.
 - "I thirst"
 - "Father forgive them, they know not what they do"
 - "It is finished"
 - "the time has come"

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.

Bible Trivia Answers
1. B
2. A
3. A
4. C
5. D
6. D
7. B
8. D
Mystery Answer
RESURRECTION