



## 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)

March, 2021

### IN ESSENTIALS



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

The Moravian Church had its official genesis on March 1, 1457, exactly 564 years ago. The fact that the Moravian Church has lasted this long begs the question as to why. There were other churches in that time that no longer exist. Others have splintered. It is easy to say that the hand of the Lord was on the Moravian Church, a statement which brings into question of the placement of the hand of God as it relates to the other churches. Is it possible that there is something unique about the Moravian Church that allows it to remain sensitive to the mission of God and the context?

To understand the ethos of any institution, one needs to look at its core values. Values are those principles, attitudes, and behaviours that are held in high regard. Core values are those values that form the foundation of the entity and inform the vision and mission of the entity. This leads me to ask the question, what are the core values of the Moravian Church? How have they informed the vision and mission of the church over these 564 years? To the best of my

knowledge, there is no document that categorically states the core values of the Moravian Unity. This article will draw from the Ground of the Unity (GOTU) which "is the most recent attempt to articulate the distinct theological approach of the Moravian tradition" (Vogt, 2019, p. 67), other readings, and personal experience. This article will focus on the Moravian emphasis on personal relationship with Jesus, emphasis on the Bible, emphasis on mission, and emphasis on worship.

Before launching into the matter at hand, please allow for a diversion to explain something that was previously unclear to the writer. The writer grew up hearing that the maxim "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love" was the Moravian motto. However, Unity Synod would later (2016) officially adopt "Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow Him" as the motto (Church Order of the Unitas Fratrum, 2017). It helps to know that the above referenced maxim was proclaimed by Unity Synod of 2016 as "the ruling principle" (Unitas Fratrum, 2017, p. 59) in dealing with differences within the church.

Continued on Page 2

### Inside this Issue

*Chairman's article*  
*Pages 1 & 2*

*Provincial Watchword,*  
*Unity Prayer Day Offering,*  
*Theological Education Sunday, Unity Prayer*  
*Watch, 2021*  
*Pg 3*

*God calls us to ministry*  
*Pg 4*

*New E Book* *Pg 4*

*Prayer and Fast for Lent*  
*Pg 5*

*Women's Healing and*  
*Empowerment Seminar*  
*Pg 6*

*Celebration Time*  
*Pg 6*

*Bible word search and*  
*Bible Trivia* *Pg 7*

*Rental of Moravian Multi-*  
*purpose complex*  
*Pg 8*

### 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.**

### Mailing Address

**Moravian Church - EWI Province  
Cashew Hill, P.O. Box 504  
St. John's, Antigua**

**Tel: (268)560-0185, Fax (268)462-0643  
EMAIL ADDRESS**

**Office: [moravianchewip@gmail.com](mailto:moravianchewip@gmail.com)  
Chairman: [moravianchurchewip@gmail.com](mailto:moravianchurchewip@gmail.com)  
WEB ADDRESS : [www.moravians.net](http://www.moravians.net)**

### *In Essentials continued from Page 1*

Before the creation of the maxim “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things love,” Luke of Prague, in 1464, thought it was important to distinguish the things that were essential for salvation from the things that were helpful (ministerial), and the things that were incidental (Vogt, 2019). The essentials for salvation include creation, redemption, and sanctification which depend entirely on divine agency and faith, hope, and love which are dependent on human agency. In other words, speaking of “essentials” in the Moravian context, there are divergent thoughts— one addresses the unity of the church and the other addresses the individual’s relationship with God.

### **EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS**

The earliest Moravians were focused on living in a personal relationship with Jesus. This was part of the legacy from John Hus whose practice of faith was closely linked to the Bible. That ethos was enhanced during the leadership of Zinzendorf who came from a pietistic tradition. To know Christ as Saviour means that one has accepted his life, cruel death on the cross, and resurrection for our salvation (Vogt, 2019). Jesus was the pattern of life and living in him was a daily experience. In embracing the message of the gospel, one also comes to know that deliverance from sin is available.

The emphasis on personal relationship with Jesus remains in the general preaching and teaching of the church. Salvation is found in no other name or person than Jesus, the Christ. In accepting Jesus personally, conversion comes and is accompanied by a change of heart and mind that is manifested on the outside. This position is fully supported by scripture (John 3:5, Acts 16:31, 2 Corinthians 5:17).

### **EMPHASIS ON THE CENTRALITY OF THE WORD**

“GOTU affirms that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the sole standard of doctrine and faith of the Unitas Fratrum” (Vogt, 2019, p. 69). This statement is very familiar to most who passed through Confirmation Class as it is contained in the Brotherly Agreement. The statement is significant in its respect for the Bible as the source of doctrine and faith. We draw instruction on how we are to live from the Bible. When this core value is upheld, the church seeks to walk in truth.

This reliance on the word of Scripture for direction is one of the reasons why the Moravian Church has not produced theological treatises. The general feeling is that the Word will guide us.

In the modern era when biblical interpretations vary depending on one’s social location, determining what exactly is the definitive truth on a matter of doctrine can be challenging. This is where the principle of “In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things love” comes into play. People are allowed to disagree on matters that are not central to salvation. At every point, the Holy Scriptures are to be our guide.

### **EMPHASIS ON MISSION**

“We believe that the Moravian Church exists because God wants us to fulfill a mission in the world. This mission is not for ourselves, but for the world. The purpose of the Moravian Church is to ‘serve humanity by the proclamation of the Gospel’” (Vogt, 2019, p. 69). The Caribbean was the first missionary journey outside of those noted in the New Testament. The Moravian missionaries coming was a direct response to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Brethren at Herrnhut on August 13, 1732. When God touched their hearts, God also showed them others. This church has had an eye for others for the sake of the gospel since then. Moravian missionaries have gone on missions simply to share the gospel without thinking of establishing churches. The emphasis was on “souls for the Lamb.”

That passion lives on with varying zeal. Getting people excited about souls for the Lamb has been a challenge. Mission and evangelistic work require great commitment. In this fast paced-world, persons find that the demands of mission and evangelism move them beyond their comfort zone. Notwithstanding, the new missional emphasis calls the church to care for its neighbours. Many congregations have found avenues for this during the earlier stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Caring for our neighbours in temporal and spiritual ways is important in the current context of the world.

### **EMPHASIS ON WORSHIP**

Some speak of the Moravian Church as a singing church. Our spiritual forebears were among the first to produce hymnals with musical notations. This was not done simply for singing. It was to enhance their worship of God. Worship was central to the life of our spiritual forebears. Moravians around the world sing the Hosanna Anthem on Palm Sunday and the first Sunday of Advent, and it links us all together as one family singing before our God. Worship opens the heart of the worshipper for the Spirit of God to do the work of renewal and restoration. Our worship draws

*Continued on Page 3*



### *In Essentials continued from Page 2*

us back into the presence of God, to be touched and inspired again for service and living. Let us commit to worship God and be open for the new movement in this new season.

As much as the years have compounded and many changes have taken place, it is good to know that these facets of the Moravian Church have remained. Some have lamented how things have changed and long for times past. When one looks for the times past, one must also be willing to answer which time exactly. If the ways of doing ministry should go back to when you were younger, what about going back to the period when your elders were younger? To which period exactly should we go back? Let us inhabit the present and seek to be faithful to God with all that God has provided. The essentials remain the essentials and God continues to move among us. Happy Birthday, Church!

### **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.

### **Theological Education Sunday**

Sunday March 22, 2021, is Theological Education Sunday. Our focus on this Sunday is the call of God for people to dedicate themselves to gospel ministry. Jesus continues to call his disciples to follow him to serve the kingdom. Are you among the called?

Special prayers are also requested for our Warden/Tutor at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), Rev. Neilson Waithe, and our Minister in training, Sis. Marleen Browne.

If you sense God calling you deeper into service, continue praying about it and talk with your pastor or a mature Christian as to how you might respond to the prompting of God. The call to ministry has many branches.

Last year you gave EC\$9158 toward theological education. The Province spent about EC\$29,000. On March 22, 2021, a special offering will be received for theological education. Please give as the Lord allows.

### **Unity Prayer Watch 2021**

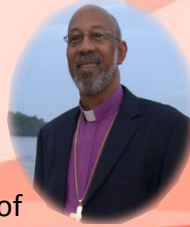
The Unity Prayer Watch is a special service to the world, offered by the worldwide Moravian Church. The Eastern West Indies Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from 12:00 midnight April 03 - Midnight April 17, 2021. The Schedule is as follows:

Name of Conference/ Mission	From	To
Grenada Mission	12:00 Mid- night April 03	8:00 a.m. April 03, 2021
St. Kitts	7:59 a.m. April 03	8:00 p.m. April 05, 2021
Trinidad	7:59 p.m. April 05	8:00 p.m. April 06, 2021
Barbados	7:59 p.m. April 06	8:00 p.m. April 09, 2021
Antigua	7:59 p.m. April 09	8:00 p.m. April 12, 2021
Tobago	7:59 p.m. April 12	Midnight April 14, 2021
Virgin Islands	11:59 p.m. April 14	Midnight April 17, 2021

Conferences are asked to observe the time allotted for our members to engage in the unbroken prayer chain. This prayer meeting began on August 13, 1727, when the Moravian Church had its Pentecost experience. The Church was so much on fire that the Prayer meeting lasted for 100 unbroken years. Let us therefore encourage our members to be in prayer, as we continue to seek God's guidance and direction for our Church and indeed our lives.

## God Calls us to Ministry The Church's Ministry

By the Rt. Rev. Dr. A. Kingsley Lewis



We have just celebrated the founding of the Moravian Church in 1457.

In that connection, I recently wrote, "Our church was born when followers of the Czech Reformer, John Hus, organized themselves into a community of faith in 1457. The official date assigned for this event is March 1<sup>st</sup> 1457. Thus as a Moravian you are a member of a very old Protestant Church—older than the Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Congregationalist, Presbyterian or Reformed Churches".

Our church could not have existed for long without its ministry, both ordained and un-ordained. Followers of the teaching of the Czech Reformer, John Hus who were unhappy about the state of the Church in their day, looked for a place to which they could withdraw to follow the scriptures, and example of Christ and the Apostles.

They found such a place on the north-east border of Bohemia in a village called Kunwald. Led by a man known as Gregory of Patriarch they laid the foundation stones of the Moravian Church. Joseph Hutton tells us that, "They built cottages, tilled the land, opened workshops, and passed their time in peace and quietness. For a law and a testimony they had the Bible and the writings of Peter of Chelcic. In Michael Bradacius, a Utraquist priest, they found a faithful pastor.

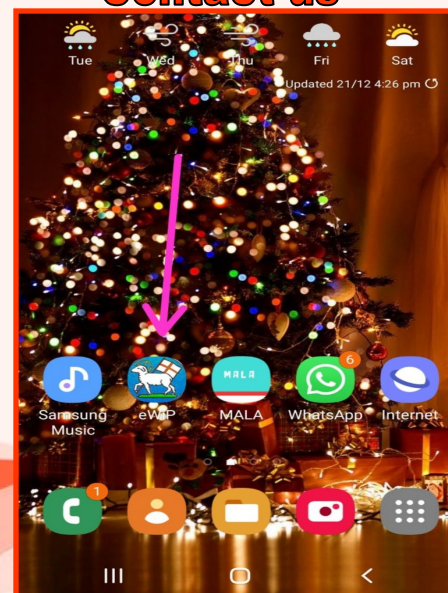
The Brethren believed that if they wished to be godly men themselves, they must have godly men in the pulpits. In the words of Joseph Hutton, "They had become a powerful body; they were founding settlements all over the land; they stood, they said, for the truth as it was in Jesus; they all had one faith, one hope, one aim, one sense of the Spirit leading them onward; and they perceived that if they were to weather the gale in those stormy times they must cut the chains that bound them to Rome, and fly their own colours in the breeze".

Thus it was that in 1467, the Brethren met in synod at Lhota after prayer and fasting in all the parishes to consider the question, "Is it God's will that we separate entirely from the power of the Papacy, and hence from its priesthood? Is it God's will that we institute, according to the model of the Primitive Church, a ministerial order of our own? The answer to these questions was yes, and the first three ministers were chosen by lot—Matthias of Kunwald, Thomas of Prelouc, and Elias of Chrenovic.

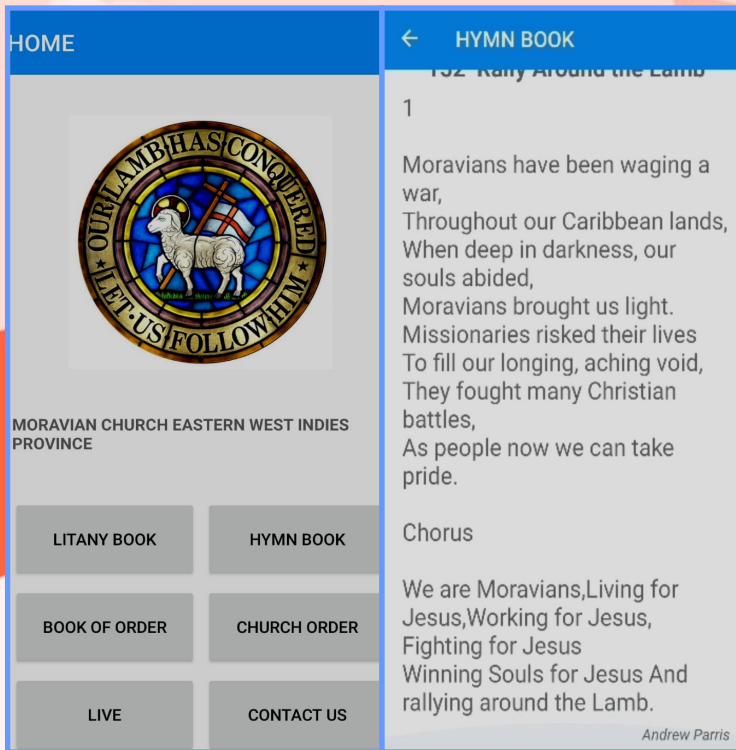
In order that they might be acknowledged as priests in Bohemia, it was thought necessary that they be ordained in the orthodox way by a Bishop of pure descent from the Apostles. They found an old Waldensian Bishop, Stephen of Austria, of noble and trusted character. Having assured themselves that he stood in Apostolic Succession and had no connection with the Church of Rome, they requested him to consecrate Michael Bradacius as a bishop. In turn Michael Bradacius returned to Lhota and ordained the three brethren who had been elected by lot as the first ministers, and consecrated Matthias of Kunwald as a bishop. Thus began the Episcopal Orders and ordained ministry of the Unitas Fratrum or Moravian Church and continue to this day.

## The Moravian Church EWIP

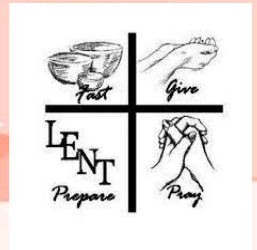
### Contact us—







## 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:

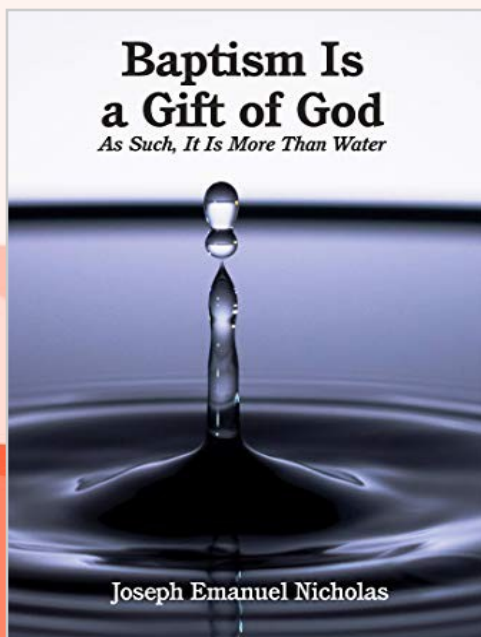
Conference	Devotion Dates	Sub-Theme
Trinidad	February 18-19	Seek
Tobago	February 22-26	Submit
Barbados	March 1-5	Hear and Heed
St. Kitts	March 8-12	Imagination and Insight
Antigua	March 15-19	Focus and Function
Virgin Islands	March 22-26	Total Transformation

## 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***

Orders can be made through the Provincial Office.



## 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.

*Continued on Page 6*

*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.

EMPAC Counselling & Consultancy PRESENTS

# Women's Healing & Empowerment Seminar 2

From Wounded to Whole: Healing From Domestic Abuse

Host: Billie Sterling-Lewis



Dr. Shirley London



Pas. Gloria Alleyne



L. Nana Oye Hesse-Bayne



Dr. Joy Maria Wilson

TIME 5:00 PM | Sunday 21st March, 2021 | Onsite: Montgomery Moravian Church & Zoom Webinar

Cost: \$TT 200.00 (\$US 30.00) Materials/ refreshments included

For information call/ Whatsapp (868) 294-3444 or 788-0944; Email: empacchangeconcepts@gmail.com



## Birthday Celebrants March 18th - 29th

Sis. Eulencine Christopher	18
Bro. Kingsley Lewis	20
Sis. Denise Smith Lewis	20
Sis. Vera Waithe	29
Bro. Edgar Gonsalves Barriero	29

## Birthday Celebrants April

Sis. Catherine Governor	4
Bro. Elroy Christopher	4
Sis. Dorothy Graham	7

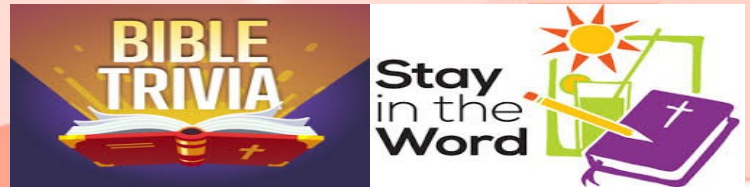




## Bible Word Search: Crucifixion

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 in to form the **mystery answer**.

Accused,	Forsaken,	Peter,
Angeles,	Hands,	Pierced,
Beaten,	Heaven,	Prayers,
Betrayed,	Holy Spirit,	Priests,
Blood,	Innocent,	Robe,
Bowed head,	Jesus,	Side,
Brother,	Kiss,	Soldiers,
Cast lots,	Lies,	Son,
Commit,	Mary,	Soul,
Cross,	Ministering,	Stripes,
Crown,	Mocked,	Tears,
Denied,	Money,	Thieves,
Father,	Mother,	Thorns
Finished,	Paradise,	Whipped



1. In what city was Jesus born? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many books are in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who were the first apostles called to follow Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves of bread and two fish? \_\_\_\_\_
6. After Jesus was arrested, which apostle disowned him three times? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body after the crucifixion? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Paul was shipwrecked on what island? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the shortest book in the New Testament? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who is the author of the Book of Revelation? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Matthew was a \_\_\_\_\_
13. Who is the high priest of Jerusalem who put Jesus on trial? \_\_\_\_\_
14. According to the Gospels, what is the unique literary genre Jesus employs to preach his message? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Who takes Jesus's body off the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

# 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.

Answer to Bible Trivia

Mystery Answer  
Forgiveness

11. John
12. Tax Collector
13. Caiaphas
14. The Parable
15. Joseph of Arimathea

6. Peter
7. Simeon
8. Joseph of Arimathea
9. Malta
10. 2nd John

1. Bethlehem
2. 27
3. Locusts
4. Peter & Andrew
5. About 500 men