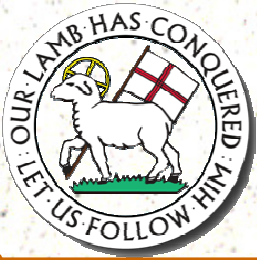


A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE



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)



Rev. Algernon Lewis
Chairman of PEC

Stewardship is....!

Coming out of a season of missionary giving, the conversation continues with stewardship as an expression or response of faith. It is no secret that the church is supported by the giving of its members. Whether it is giving of time, talent, or treasure, without the faithful making meaningful contributions, the work of the kingdom is impeded. The topic of stewardship has always been contentious as generosity is a habit many have to cultivate. In our fallen world, there is usually the sense that there is scarcity – not enough – so one must selfishly guard the resources one possesses, less they are used up forever. Those of us who believe that God created this wonderful world with enough must adopt a faith-filled posture that in God's economy, there is enough.

Stewardship is a biblical construct. When God commanded Adam and Eve to *be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth*, he was calling them to steward the earth as a resource from God. They were to use it, not abuse it, to create a livelihood.

In the New Testament, the Greek word translated stewardship is *oikonomia*. This is a compound word – *oikos* meaning house, and *nomos*, meaning law. It speaks to the management of the house or household affairs. Classically, it is about financial administration. In the Bible a steward may be a slave or hired servant to whom the owner entrusts the management of his household (Luke 12:42). Jesus broadened the concept when he called his disciples "friends" (John 15:15). This suggests that there was a partnership where both parties were working together for a common purpose.

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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, Evangelist discipleship and service.

Mailing Address

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

Stewardship is...! Continued from Page 1

We see further development of the concept of stewardship in the ministry of the Apostle Paul. He saw himself as a steward of the mysteries of God and the grace of God (1 Corinthians 4:1; Ephesians 3:2). Even though the word “stewardship” is not mentioned in the following texts, the concept is present as Christ-followers or disciples work for the sake of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 3:9, referring to Christ-followers, Paul says, *fellow workers, you are God’s field, you are God’s building*. In Galatians 4:7 Paul writes, *so you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God*. We see the progression from slave, to friend, to being a child/offspring. “Christian stewardship is a family affair. Not merely to work for God as his agents and administrators of his property, but to work with him as his children, sharing his purposes, his resources, his very nature – such is the high status of Christian stewards” (Kantonen, 2001). Christian stewardship is the practice of the Christian religion.

How does this translate on the ground? What does this look like in the life of the Christ-follower in 2022? The church needs people to carry out its mission. God created the church to be a community of people working together to fulfill the divine mandate to go and make disciples. The preferred model is designated clergy within an organization. There must be people dedicated/set apart for the work. In other words, this is their primary focus – tending the ministry and the flock of God. I have deliberately avoided the term fulltime ministry as all Christ-followers are expected to be in fulltime ministry. We are consistently on call once we are earnest about following Christ. Let that sink in for a moment – God has called all Christ-followers to follow 24/7.

The structure mentioned above needs resources to function. Whether it is time, treasure, or talent, it is all needed. Crudely defined, stewardship is about the business of the house or the management of the house. Each congregation has business it needs to transact so that it can engage the mission of God. Further, Conferences and the Province need to manage their affairs of the house. Scripture makes provision for us to give our tithes and offerings.

In recent travels for the Unity Board meeting and the World Council of Churches Assembly, I got the opportunity to see how other Moravians have managed their business. In the Czech Republic, the church has a business arm that is focused on the financial sustainability of the Province. They use the gifts they have in land and buildings for the glory of God and to continue the work of the church. When the business does well, they have resources for ministry whether that is to get back into secondary education which they recently did as a way to maintain the legacy of Comenius in education. They also have a preschool and a primary school. The church is small but they are stewarding the gifts well to serve the cause of the gospel.

Visiting those churches gave me ideas about what is possible in this Province if we shift our perspective from holding tightly to the resources God placed in our hands to investing for the future. The concept is not new for us because we have examples in the Virgin Islands with the Nisky Mall and in Antigua with the Bishop John E. Knight Golden Age Home. We have done big things but there is so much more we can do to steward the lands and the talents God has given to the church. We are on the brink of launching a Moravian College to serve the growing tertiary education needs of our region. It is a big project, but we have the human resources and we will need other inputs like financial commitment to move this project from possibility to realization. There are enough of us to make this happen, but we each need to optimally steward the resources God has provided.

The church has a role to play in the society. In this time when so many find it difficult to make ends meet and provide basic needs, we need to be there. I recently saw a video of a young man who was helped by his church to get an apartment and other amenities. He was homeless but consistently attended worship. Word got to the pastor and he brought the young man to the altar and gave him money and a place to stay. He invited the congregation to bless the young man as well. By the end of the moment, he had a place to stay, money in his pocket, and maybe also a job. This is ministry on a different level. It took the church coming together, stewarding individual resources to bless the brother in Christ.

Stewardship is...! Continued from Page 2

Our church can get to that place when each member, based on their individual realities, gives generously to the work of the Lord. Our church still believes in giving tithes and offerings. A tithe is ten percent of one's income. For sure, this is an act of faith to give at these proportions, believing that God is the source of all things and that God will provide. The admonition of Malachi 3:10 still holds –*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.* When we steward our resources in the ways that God instructs us to, then the resources will be available – the windows of heaven will open to make provision for the needs that are around us.

For those who advocate that giving a tithe is an Old Testament concept that is not repeated in the New Testament, look at Luke 11:24 –*But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practised, without neglecting the others.* Jesus chastised them for their commitment to the less weighty matters of the faith such as tithing their crops and neglecting the greater matters of dispensing justice and loving God. Jesus saw giving as less consequential than practicing one's faith. Giving is not a substitute for living your faith. Fundamentally, your church needs your tithes. There are some who can give beyond a tithe because of the blessings God has poured on them. Please consider how you might be a greater blessing so that more can be done for the kingdom's sake. For persons who are not working, you have no obligation.

Outside of the tithe, the Bible also calls us to give freewill offerings. The Apostle Paul mentions the generosity of the churches of Macedonia in 2 Corinthians 8: 2-3. He notes that they were going through a trail of affliction but they gave beyond their ability to meet the needs of other churches. This giving was not required, it came from hearts of compassion and love. This is another level of giving. The giver is moved by the circumstances and chooses to bless another. Some people know what this is like because they give

to a student in need to ensure the educational pursuits are not interrupted or give to some cause just because of a generous heart. I have done this many times. As a pastor, I have benefitted from this type of generosity during pastor's appreciation which comes up in December and at other times. Many congregations benefitted from the freewill giving of members to get their online platforms created. Without freewill offerings, without members going above and beyond, stewarding the resources that God has provided, many of our congregations would have a much greater struggle on their hands.

Stewarding resources is not only about giving money. We need people to manage the money, to plan the projects, to install equipment, to operate the equipment, and the like. The church needs all the gifts God has given. In a modern world where we must become financially sustainable outside of the offering plate, more members need to think about stewarding the gifts that God has given in the ministry of the church. I look forward to a time when the church is more intentionally involved in income generating projects so we can have more substantive ministries meeting people at the point of their need. It will take more Christ-followers shifting their perspective from just giving a tithe or an offering, to making holistic interventions and contributions to creating sustainable ministry models. The talent is present. I invite the conversations and the suggestions on the way forward.

It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy (1 Cor. 4:2). We are all stewards of the gifts of God. With those gifts God has called us into partnership with God's self to do our part for the mission of God to be fully realized. As a church, we need to use the natural resources that we have to make a difference. As Individuals, we must use that which God has placed in our hands and be the best stewards. It may be about giving our tithes. It may be giving freewill offerings. It may be using our skills to make sure that the mission of God gets done. God knew what would have been required to get the work done and so God preloaded the gifts. We must do the work to discover and steward what God has given. May God help us all to be found faithful.

Retired Acolyte, Sis Ida, Aletha Dawson

As one scrolls through the diary entries of the late 80's and early 90's, the name Ida Dawson keeps popping up. She was actively a part of the ministry at



Nisky: leading worship, visiting with and praying for the members, fitting in for the pastor, and supporting the efforts of the pastor. One entry mentions how wonderful it was that Sis Dawson could provide support to someone like the Rev Dr

Charles Peters who had the added responsibilities of the Superintendent and the Provincial Board.

It is, therefore, of very little surprise to learn that on September 15, 1996, Sis. Ida Aletha Dawson accepted the ministry and was appointed Acolyte of the Nisky Moravian Church. Sis. Dawson served with humility, enthusiasm, devotion and distinction in this office until about 2018. She began to experience some physical challenges and thought it best to withdraw from the responsibilities of Acolyte. However, when able, she would seize upon any opportunity to assist with shut-in and sick visitation.

Sis. Dawson served long and well because of her love for God and her love for people. She was a spiritual live wire. Her cup of service was always full of passion and running over with joyful concern for those in need, and for people near and far. Her church involvement is proof positive that she was always on the frontlines.

Among the ministries that Sis Dawson participated in are: Christian Education Committee, Bible Study, Intercession, Evangelism Committee, the Visitation Team, the Sunday School, the Board of Ushers, the Soup Kitchen, the Cleaning Spell #5, the Senior Choir, the Gospel Choir and any other ad hoc, ministry related opportunity.

To think of the faith, ministry, and witness of Sis. Dawson is to be inspired by one who was decided, determined, and devoted to God:

She was ever at her down to earth best in visitation, in singing (a good and useful alto), in drama (comedic actress), in liturgy, in prayer, in preaching, in her presence with and in sincere support of others, in purpose and passion as she served. She is a promise fulfilled as she offered her god-given gifts to fill the need wherever it existed.

Nisky took pride of first place but never, the only place of service. Other congregations and denominations benefitted from Sis Dawson's Christian service. When invited she accepted. She was, in her words, "determined to love and serve her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in humility." She had a special love for the work on Tortola. She was an exceptional Acolyte or pastor's assistant, a fearless frontline warrior, and will always be a devout, Jesus lover.

Sis. Ida Dawson is married to Bro Lawrence M Dawson. Her children are: Leona Hanna, Sheree Wattley, Jacqueline Davis, and Lanette Baker. We commit her, her husband, her off-springs, and their succeeding lines to the constant love and mercies of God.

Today, we celebrate and express appreciation to God for the ministry and witness of Retired Acolyte, Sis. Ida Dawson. Her favourite text of Scripture is Proverbs 3:5-7, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil" (NRSV).



May Almighty God continue to order her steps and garrison her soul in His peace, His love and the assurance of life everlasting.

About the Author



REV. DR. ULSTON PATMORE SMITH is an ordained minister in the Moravian Church with over 25 years of ministry experience. He is a deeply rooted Caribbean theologian, musician and pastor. Dr. Smith is a skilful pianist, vocalist, composer and arranger and has conducted music workshops in a number of Caribbean islands, the United States of America and Canada. He was an adjudicator for the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival and now serves as Provincial Director of Music for the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province.

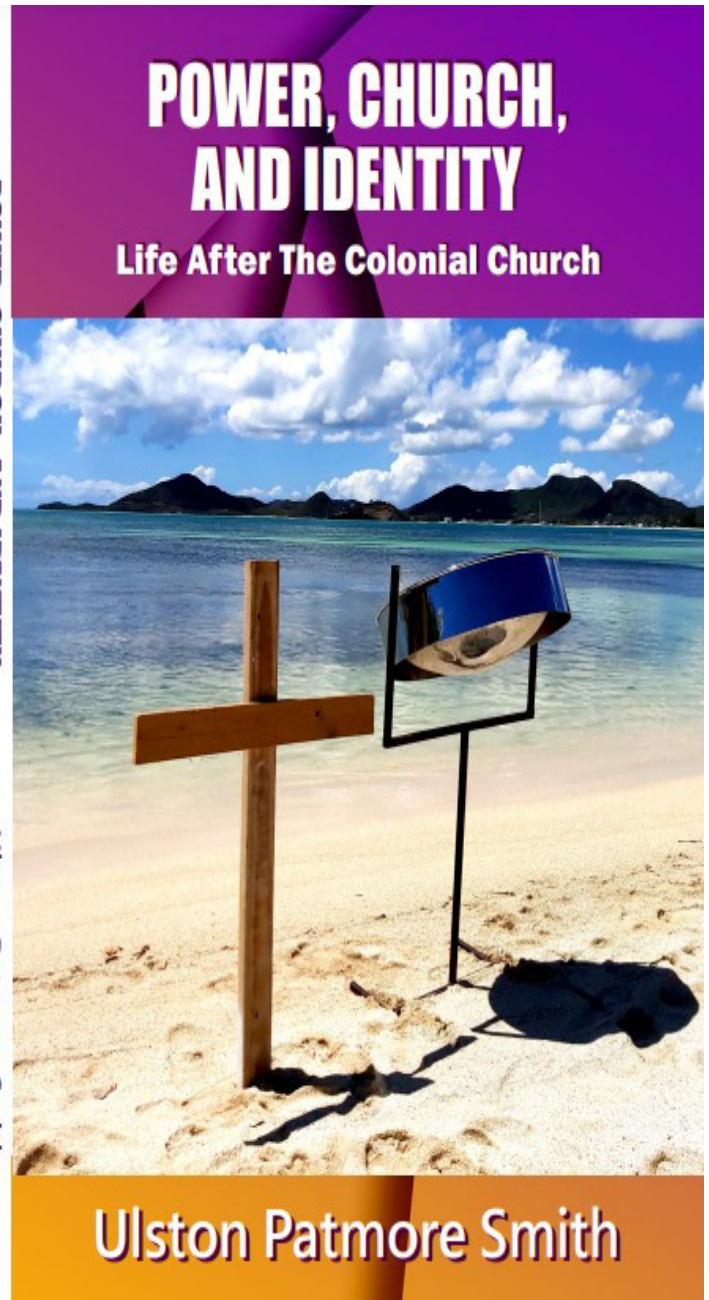


Pursuing Truth - Discovering Life

What role did the church play during slavery? What is the church doing now to correct those wrongs? **Power, Church and Identity** articulates the complicit role of the church in Caribbean history as it relates to slavery, colonization and post colonization. This book presents a timely examination of the far-reaching negative effects of poor, incomplete theology and the hijacking of the Bible for financial gains. It offers a bold yet insightful critique of the faith that was deposited through colonial frameworks and simultaneously constructs a path that leads to self-determination for the reader. **Power, Church, and Identity** illumines the negative realities of hidden and camouflaged power and calls for continued vigilance. The approach is practical, reconciliatory and stimulatingly engaging for those who are the custodians of power as well as those who are oppressed by it.

POWER, CHURCH, AND IDENTITY

Ulston Patmore Smith



Mathematics Enrichment Programme

A Mathematics Enrichment Programme will be held from 12th to 16th December 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Moravian Complex at Cashew Hill. Classes in Algebra will be for 3rd and 4th formers only. The registration fee is \$50.00 and forms are available at each Congregation. These forms must be returned before 30th November 2022.

The Mathematics Enrichment Programme is open to non-Moravians as well. 3rd and 4th form students are encouraged to make use of this opportunity, and to register early, as space is limited to 40 students.

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

TIME TO Celebrate

Birthdays for November 21-30

Sis. Katrina Reece-Burley	17
Bro. Rowan Simmons	19
Sis. Myrtle Miller	21
Bro. Ezra Parris	21
Bro. Delroy Burley	24
Sis. Joyce Walters	24
Bro. Nevin Lewis	27



Birthdays for December 1—15

Bro. Ulric V Smith	02
Bro. Alban St. Hill	02
Sis. Eloise Stephen	02
Sis. Liselle Roberts	08
Bro. Kevin St. Hill	08
Sis. Bonnie E.B.W. Smith	10
Sis. Cicely Athill-Horsford	12



Anniversaries for November 24th and December 1—13th

Bro. Alban St. Hill & Sis. Cynthia St. Hill	24
Bro. Cortroy Jarvis & Sis. Pearline Jarvis	07
Sis. Alicia Ross-Floyd & Bro Myron Floyd	08
Sis. Bonnie E. B. W. Smith & Bro. Ulric V. Smith	10
Sis. Judy Winspeare-Philip & Bro. Sean Philip	12
Bro. Winston Jones & Sis. Cleatus Jones	13



Provincial Day of Prayer

Our final Provincial Day of Prayer for 2022, takes place on December 1, 2022 from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm – twelve hours of prayer, praise, proclamation, and prophetic declaration. Like other years, this event will require participation from all the Conferences. More information will be shared shortly.



Reconvening of the 33rd Provincial Synod



The Chairman of the 33rd Provincial Synod has advised that the Constitution Committee has concluded its deliberations and is ready to report to the Synod. Therefore, the Provincial Board will reconvene the 33rd Provincial Synod on December 8, 2022, at 3:00 pm.

Synodals are requested to read all the documents sent to them in preparation for our one-day session. Please keep the 33rd Provincial Synod in your prayers.



Condolences

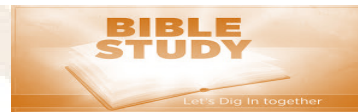
The Provincial family expresses condolences to Bro. Delroy Burley in the Barbados Conference on the death of his uncle Mr. Franklyn Williams who died at the age of 79 at the Cornwall Regional Hospital in St. James, Jamaica on Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Please remember Bro. Burley and Family in prayer.

ALL the words listed below are in this “Thanksgiving” 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 the correct order to form the Mystery Answer.

Asparagus,	Gratitude,	Potatoes,
Biscuits,	Gravy,	Praise,
Bread,	Harvest,	Prayers,
Cabbage,	Herbs,	Pumpkin,
Carrots,	Holiday,	Puritans,
Corn,	Indians,	Relatives,
Cranberry,	Lincoln,	Roast,
Dessert,	Muffins,	Salad,
Dressing,	November,	Stuffing,
Family,	Parades,	Thursday,
Feast,	Pecans,	Turkey,
Grace,	Pilgrims,	Worship
Grateful,	Plymouth,	

E	Y	A	D	S	R	U	H	T	U	O	M	Y	L	P
P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	T	O	R	R	A	C	S
U	G	D	H	U	G	D	S	E	U	C	O	R	N	E
M	R	A	O	F	S	N	A	T	I	R	U	P	G	D
P	A	L	L	F	A	P	I	E	L	A	K	A	F	A
K	C	A	I	I	G	I	G	S	R	N	B	E	S	R
I	E	S	D	N	R	H	R	H	S	B	S	P	Y	A
N	L	N	A	G	A	S	A	O	A	E	A	V	H	P
P	I	I	Y	P	T	R	T	C	V	R	R	T	E	R
R	N	F	V	R	E	O	I	I	A	R	V	D	R	O
A	C	F	A	A	F	W	T	G	U	Y	R	E	B	A
Y	O	U	R	I	U	A	U	P	E	C	A	N	S	S
E	L	M	G	S	L	S	D	D	E	S	S	E	R	T
R	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R	F	A	M	I	L	Y
S	M	I	R	G	L	I	P	F	E	A	S	T	B	S



- Which person in the Bible said to a fig tree, “No one shall ever eat figs from you again!”?
 - James
 - Judas
 - Jesus
 - Johnny Appleseed
- Which Psalms in the Bible says God doesn’t sleep?
 - Psalms 40
 - Psalms 122
 - Psalms 140
 - All the Psalms
- What kind of wood did God tell Noah to use to make the ark?
 - Birch
 - Gopher
 - Walnut
 - Old Christmas Trees
- After King Nebuchadnezzar had Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego thrown into the blazing furnace, how many men did he see in the fire?
 - None
 - 1
 - 4
 - 5
- How many Mary’s does the Gospel of John mention standing by the cross of Jesus?
 - 1
 - 3
 - 7
 - 4
- What was the name of the place where the Lord confused the language of all the earth?
 - Eden
 - Babel
 - Mesopotamia
 - Place hard to pronounce
- Who does the Bible say named all the living creatures?
 - God
 - Adam
 - Moses
 - Doctor McScientist
- What was the price the chief priests paid to Judas to deliver Jesus to them?
 - 70 denarii
 - 300 denarii
 - 30 pieces of silver
 - 1,000,000,000 dollars
- Which person pretended to be insane by scratching on doors and drooling on himself in front of a king?
 - David
 - Ekeron
 - Ashkelon
 - Crazy Old Maurice
- Who closed the door of the ark before the flood?
 - Noah
 - Noah’s Son
 - The Lord
 - The Stewardess

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 LEFTOVERS

10. Genesis 7; 16-17(NLT)
6. Genesis 11:9(NKJV) 7. Genesis 2; 19(NKJV) 8. Matthew 26; 14-15(NKJV) 9. 1Samuel 21 12-15 (NLT)
1. Mark 11; 14(GNT) 2. Psalms 122; 2-4 (KJV) 3. Genesis 6: 14 4. Daniel 3:24-25 (NIRV) 5. John 19;25 (KJV)
- Answers to Bible Trivia*

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