

# A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF PEC - EWI PROVINCE



## The Information

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4: 12-13



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

### I am Moravian...

In this second installment on distinctives of the Moravian Church, it is useful to remind ourselves of what went before. When we identify ourselves as Christians who are Moravian, we are saying to people that the Bible has a central place in our lives, that we live our faith in the daily affairs of life that allows us to connect with people and bring the Bible to life, and that we are open to the work of the Holy Spirit. These are foundational to the Moravian Church and manifest themselves at various levels of intensity.

In this article I will share about the Moravian Church's emphasis on salvation through Jesus Christ. Sometimes, in discussing these core values, opinions vary. There are also different ways of expressing the same point.

Moravian theology was influenced heavily by Count Zinzendorf, and he was of the pietistic tradition. As a pietist, he emphasized a religion of the heart. This was at a time when there was a move towards intellectual approaches to faith. For Zinzendorf, Christianity was rooted in a relationship with Jesus where one's heart is moved by God.

### ***An encounter with Jesus is central to the Christian life.***

For Zinzendorf, religion is known by the heart and not the head. Intellectual approaches would never be able to figure it out. Religion of the heart is not about emotions. "The Christian faith, he argued, is something different than a rational system of knowledge about God; it is a living relationship with Christ" (Moravian Church Unity Office, 2019, p. 66).

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February, 2023

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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.**

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We come to recognize Jesus as Saviour through an experience of the heart. Each person who experiences a conversion to Christ comes to that place through an inward feeling rather than through an intellectual experience. An encounter with Jesus is central to the Christian life.

It is important to note that Zinzendorf was not anti-intellectual because he was a strong proponent of having a sound education so that people could read the Bible for themselves. The important component was a changed heart occasioned by the presence of Jesus. That encounter was not the same for everyone. Some people had a dramatic conversion while others have a gradual deepening of faith that resulted in a changed life. This is all the work of God drawing people to God's self.

In looking at the intentions of the pioneers of this church, it is clear that they interpreted Scripture to be saying that salvation through Christ was required for each believer. Over the years, other interpretations may have entered the consciousness and practice of this church. Some tend to shy away from highlighting the need for a living relationship with Christ. However, there is no substitute in our Moravian understanding of salvation. To be Christian and Moravian require that we embrace this reality of a religion of the heart which manifests itself in changed hearts through a relationship with Christ.

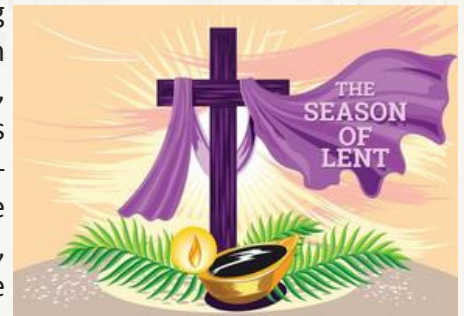
When someone asks about the Moravian Church, we tell the person that this division of the body of Christ believes in the need for personal faith in Christ for salvation. None of us wants to think that we have betrayed our heritage. However, we need to give urgent attention to how we live what has been passed on to us. There is an urgent need to add our stories to the stories of our forebears so that decades from now, the lines can be traced from our spiritual forebears to us, and to those who come behind us. The Moravian distinctives are not for bragging rights. They are biblical standards by which we are called to live.

What is your confession as a Christian and Moravian? Is this religion of the heart represented in your life of faith now?

## Journeying through Lent

Lent 2023 is upon us. This is the time of year when Christians who follow the liturgical calendar recall the days when Jesus was driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil.

During those 40 days in the wilderness, Luke 4 records that he ate nothing. Given the time of testing, Christians have used this time called Lent to engage in practices that deepen our faith.



As we go into this Lent, the world is still in turmoil. The COVID-19 crisis is mostly behind us but the economic challenges are great with rising inflation and all its attendant issues. On February 6, the earth in Turkey and Syria shook violently, creating a humanitarian crisis. The magnitude of the damage is catastrophic. On February 12, Cyclone Gabrielle had a devastating impact on New Zealand. Closer home, there have been earthquakes in the Caribbean region in recent weeks. These events raise the level of uncertainty and anxiety as the next strike is unknown.

As we go into Lent, let us be deliberate to pray about the condition of the world. It is easy to only think of ourselves but God is still looking for people to stand in the gap. Pray for peace, justice, governments, the poor and the marginalized, families in trouble, our youth, the church, and the world. The list is endless.



In addition to prayer, there are other practices we might engage to foster our spiritual growth. Given that

Jesus ate nothing at that time, we might consider adding fasting to our prayer. Fasting is not a magic bullet. It is the believers' willingness to subject their personal agenda to focus on connecting with God.

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Fasting comes in different forms. Fasting may be total, partial, or liquid. One may choose to fast from technology or from another personal habit or preference.

All of this is to bring ourselves into greater alignment with Jesus. Your preference might not be for something as rigorous as fasting. How about other practices like silence and solitude – setting dedicated time to sit quietly before God? This is a time to connect with God and with self. In a busy world, it is difficult but needed to maintain balance and stay connected to God. One way of practicing silence is to set a time each day when we disconnect from the noise (phones, people, work) and focus on God.

There is also the spiritual practice of service. This may be as simple as setting time to volunteer at a hospital, a senior citizens' home, or preparing meals for people in need. The spiritual practice of service shifts the focus from us to others.



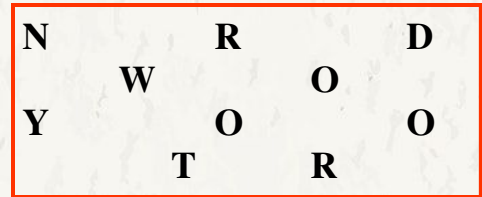
There are other ways we might choose to observe Lent that draws us closer to God. Whatever you choose to do, pray about it and listen for how God will instruct you. God might reveal habits and attitudes that consistently come between you and God and Lent can be a set time to purge those habits and attitudes from our lives.

Whatever your chosen practice to observe Lent, recognize the urgent need to pray for the world. We have been moving from one tragedy to the next and no one knows where the next tragedy will strike. We know that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1). Let us opt to focus on strengthening our relationship with Jesus through an intentional effort this Lent. Let us journey with Jesus in this season of denial looking forward to the hope of Resurrection.



**God cares for all of His creation.... From the birds of the air, to the lilies of the field. God loves us even more and knows what we need.**

**Use the letters in the letter box to finish each idea from Luke 12: 22-34. The letters in the boxes will give you a message.**



- ☐ o not set your heart on what you drink or eat.
- ☐ r what you should wear.
- ☐ ow life is more important than food, and the Body more than clothes.
- ☐ ur Father knows what we need.
- ☐ he lilies grow... if that is how God clothed the grass of the field.
- ☐ ill God clothe you?
- ☐ , you of little faith.
- ☐ avens do not sow or reap... yet God feeds them.
- ☐ emember you are more valuable than birds.
- ☐ ou can't add a single hour to your life by worrying.

**Message** \_\_\_\_\_







# Cultural Renewal through Faithful Work

Tim Keller, *Gospel in Life*



I am often asked: "Should Christians be involved in shaping culture?" My answer is that we can't not be involved in shaping culture. To illustrate this, I offer a very sad example. In the years leading up to the Civil War many southerners resented the interference of the abolitionists, who were calling on Christians to stamp out the sin of slavery.

In response, some churches began to assert that it was not the church's (nor Christians') job to try to 'change culture' but only to preach the gospel and see souls saved. The tragic irony was that these churches were shaping culture. Their very insistence that Christians should not be changing culture meant that those churches were supporting the social status quo. They were defacto endorsing the cultural arrangements of the Old South. (For more on this chapter in American history, see Mark Noll, *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*.)

This is an extreme example, but it makes the point that when Christians work in the world, they will either assimilate into their culture and support the status quo or they will be agents of change. This is especially true in the area of work. Every culture works on the basis of a 'map' of what is considered most important. If God and his grace are not at the center of a culture, then other things will be substituted as ultimate values. So every vocational field is distorted by idolatry.





Christian medical professionals will soon see that some practices make money for them but don't add value to patients' lives. Christians in marketing and business will discern accepted patterns of communication that distort reality or which play to and stir up the worst aspects of the human heart.

Christians in business will often see among their colleagues' behavior that which seeks short-term financial profit at the expense the company's long-term health, or practices that put financial profit ahead the good of employees, customers, or others in the community.

Christians in the arts live and work in a culture in which self-expression is an end in itself. And in most vocational fields, believers face work-worlds in which ruthless, competitive behavior is the norm.

There are two opposite mistakes that a Christian can make in addressing the idols of their vocational field. On the one hand they can seal off their faith from their work, laboring according to the same values and practices that everyone else uses. Or they may loudly and clumsily declare their Christian faith to their co-workers, often without showing any grace and wisdom in the way they relate to people on the job.

At Redeemer, especially through the Center for Faith and Work, we seek to help believers think out the implications of the gospel for art, business, government, media, entertainment, scholarship. We teach that excellence in work is a crucial means to gain credibility for our faith. If our work is shoddy, our verbal witness only leads listeners to despise our beliefs.

If Christians live in major cultural centers and simply do their work in an excellent but distinctive manner it will ultimately produce a different kind of culture than the one in which we live now.

But I like the term 'cultural renewal' better than 'culture shaping' or 'culture changing/transforming.' The most powerful way to show people the truth of Christianity is to serve the common good. The monks in the Middle Ages moved out through pagan Europe, inventing and establishing academies, universities, and hospitals. They transformed local economies and cared for the weak through these new institutions. They didn't set out to 'get control' of a pagan culture. They let the gospel change how they did their work and that meant they worked for others rather than for themselves. Christians today should be aiming for the same thing.

As Roman society was collapsing, St Augustine wrote *The City of God* to remind believers that in the world there are always two 'cities', two alternate 'kingdoms.' One is a human society based on selfishness and gaining power. God's kingdom is the human society based on giving up power in order to serve. Christians live in both kingdoms, and although that is the reason for much conflict and tension, it also is our hope and assurance. The kingdom of God is the permanent reality, while the kingdom of this world will eventually fade away.







### Birthday Celebrants February 17—24

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 1—15

Sis. Alicia Ross-Floyd	07
Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	09
Bro. Jeremy Francis	09



### Wedding Anniversaries February 16 - March 15

Bro. Kingsley & Sis. Maureen Lewis	February 19
Bro. Ralph & Sis. Rosalind Prince	March 02



### Ordination Anniversaries Feb 16—March 15

Bro. Patmore Smith	March 13, 2005
Sis. Liselle Roberts	March 11, 2011



### Condolences

The Provincial family extends condolences to:

- ◆ Bro. Keith Horsford, husband of Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Pearl Horsford. Mrs. Horsford was buried on Tuesday February 7, at the Canaan Nazarene Church in Tobago.
- ◆ Rev. Vankys Isaac on the death of his brother, Mr. Alberto Bute, and his uncle, Mr. Jules Isaac.

Mr. Bute died on January 13, in St. Maarten and was buried on January 27, 2023 in St. Maarten. Mr. Jules Isaac died on January 15 in England.

Please pray for Bro. Horsford and Bro. Isaac and their families as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.



### Unity Prayer Day and Offering

March 5, 2023 is Unity Sunday. At this time of year, we remember the birth of the Unitas Fratrum, the Moravian Church, on March 1, 1457. We are requested to pray for the work and witness of our Church Unity as we seek to be faithful to the mission of God.

A special Unity offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Sunday March 5, 2023. This offering will go towards creating the Moravian Unity Disaster Fund as required by Unity Synod 2016. This fund will provide assistance in the event of natural or artificial disasters.

Please give as you are able.

ALL the words listed below are in this 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**.



Abihu,	Israel,	Statute forever,
A m e t h y s t ,	Ithamar,	Two rings,
Breastplate,	Jacinth,	Urim,
C a r b u n c l e ,	Jasper,	Wise-hearted,
Checker work,	Lace of blue,	Yahshua
Diamond,	Linen trousers,	
Eleazar,	Minister,	
Emerald,	Moses,	
Girdles,	Onyx,	
Golden bells,	Pomegranate,	
Gold rings,	Robe	
Headbands,	Sapphire,	
Holy to Yahweh	Sardius,	



- About how many people of Israel traveled in the exodus out of Egypt?
  - couple hundred
  - About 300,000 men and women
  - About 600,000 men, besides women and children
  - 8,000,000,000
- In which book in the Bible does a king decree the animals not eat food or drink water and for them to be covered with sack-cloth?
  - Leviticus
  - Judges
  - The Book of Poor Farming for a Kingdom
  - Jonah
- In Mark's Gospel, what does Jesus (the Son of Man) say people will see him doing in the end times?
  - Coming in the clouds with great power and glory
  - Hurling the final spear at Satan
  - Healing the sick and helping the poor
  - Sending thunder from Heaven saying "I told you so"
- Why did Moses smash the stone tablets that God had inscribed with His finger?
  - He tripped
  - He saw the people worshipping a golden calf
  - He knew the people couldn't follow them
  - Typo
- What did King Nebuchadnezzar see after he had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego thrown into the burning fiery furnace?
  - Four men walking around in the fire
  - A pillar of ice inside the furnace
  - Dozens of angels singing
  - A car full of people tailgating and grilling out
- In which direction does the Book of Genesis say God planted a garden?
  - In the north
  - In the east
  - A little bit west
  - In the metaverse
- Which character in the Bible said, "This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head."?
  - King Saul
  - Jesse
  - David
  - Conan the Barbarian
- Which book of the Bible talks about gates made of pearls?
  - Matthew
  - Nahum
  - Revelation
  - The Lost City
- What does the Bible say the Spirit of God was doing in the second verse of Genesis?
  - Resting in Heaven
  - Rapidly moving over the land
  - Hovering over the waters
  - Playing sudoku.
- What did David's dad give him to take to the commander of the unit his brothers were in?
  - Wine
  - Cheeses
  - Healing oils
  - A duck



# 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.

High Priest

Mystery Answer

1. Exodus 12:37-38 (ESV)
2. Jonah 3:6-8 (NIV)
3. Mark 13:26-27 (NIV)
4. (NIV) Exodus 32:19 (NIV)
5. Daniel 3:24-25 (NIV)
6. Genesis 2:6 (NIV)
7. 1 Samuel 17:45-47 (NIV)
8. Revelation 21:21 (NIV)
9. Genesis:1-2 (NIV)
10. 1 Samuel 17:17-19 (NIV)