

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...

This third installment on distinctives of the Moravian Church, will highlight our emphasis on evangelism/outreach and our deep faith in the Triune God. As reminder, we looked at the emphasis on the Bible being central our practice of practical holiness that allows us to connect with people, our openness to the work of the Holy Spirit, and our emphasis on salvation through Jesus.

Another of the distinctives of the Moravian Church would be our emphasis on evangelism. That fact is often repeated and celebrated though not always practiced. It is established fact that

Moravian Church is one of the pioneers in sending missionaries outside of the New Testament. Other churches sent clergy to follow their members. When the missionaries went to St. Thomas in December of 1732, it was as result of the testimony of Anthony Ulrich who was an enslaved man originally from West Africa and brought to the Danish Caribbean to be a slave on the sugar cane plantation. When Zinzendorf spoke with him at a coronation in Denmark about the spiritual condition of the enslaved people in the Caribbean, the report of their inhuman treatment and their exclusion from church did not sit well with Zinzendorf. The situation begged for a response and he invited Anthony to Herrnhut to share his story. When that story was shared others were moved to respond. Leonard Dober and David Nitschmann eventually set out from Germany on August 21, 1732 and arrived in St. Thomas on December 13, 1732. These things are well known.

The Moravian approach to mission is based on six ideas:

1. "Souls for the Lamb!" Missions was about preaching the gospel to all who needed to hear and receive Christ.
2. Personal faith in Christ was the driving force. Missionaries are to share what they have

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March, 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.

Mailing Address

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experienced in Christ. The witness of the missionary was key.

3. Missionaries were to sow the seed of the word and prepare people for the coming kingdom of Christ.
4. Missionaries cannot save people. The work of salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit.
5. Coercion should be avoided. True conversion is a response of the heart.
6. The focus of preaching should be the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It is the person of Jesus that makes the difference for those who will come to believe.

It is useful to ask what has become of the passion for mission and the rallying cry of souls for the Lamb. We need to recapture that part of our DNA so that this church can walk in obedience to the call of God. It is important the church remembers that our existence is about reaching people for Christ and not keeping the doors open. So much of our meetings is about the “business” of church the organization and not the mission of God. It is a difficult balancing act at times. Yet, we must keep that balance if we are to be faithful to the call. The need to emphasize the mission of God is greater now than in previous times. More people are walking away from church believing that they can live without reference to God or church. Our Moravian forebears took on the challenge of mission and went into the places where they felt they were led and shone the light of Christ. If people are going to have that encounter with Jesus again, we must be on mission to witness to the presence and difference of Christ in our lives. This is one of the reasons we have been talking about discipleship. We grow our faith in Christ so that we are better witnesses to Christ. The Moravian Church has always emphasized the need to be practical signposts of the presence of Jesus.

Underlying these distinctives is a deep and abiding faith in the triune God. Our Moravian forebears had a profound belief in God. For them it was not enough to give an intellectual assent of faith in God. That belief had to express itself in the quality of one’s life. It was

that faith that kept Hus when he clashed with the church of the day. He knew death was possible, but

he kept going because he believed that God was leading him. The same may be said for the missionaries who came out to the Caribbean and the other mission fields. Dober and Nitschmann did not have a receiving agency to meet them but they came because they believed that God would make a way where there seemed to be no way. They stepped out in faith.

It was that faith in God that so impressed John Wesley when he shared space with the Moravians on a

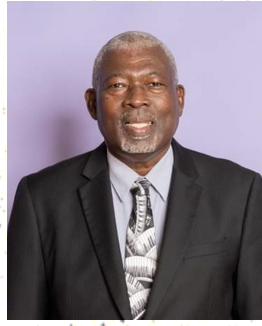
ship heading to America. A storm buffeted the ship and death at sea seemed to be their fate. There were screams of terror when a wave inundated the ship and poured water into the cabins. During the turbulence, the Moravians maintained a posture of worship, singing songs of praise to God. They believed that God would bring them out, and even if they died, they were convinced of eternal rest with God – God was consistently present with them. Their faith was not an accessory in their lives; it was more than an oaken staff on which they leaned. Their faith was a ship that carried them through life. Their faith caused them to challenge the status quo and leave the rest to God.

When someone asks about the Moravian Church and we tell the person that this division of the body of Christ is characterized by its emphasis on personal faith in Christ for salvation, focuses on mission and evangelism, and operates on a deep, abiding faith in God, what should that mean for you? 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 these stories 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? Do you have a passion for souls or pursue that deep faith in God? Let us reclaim that identity.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CANA MORAVIAN CHURCH

By Rev. Dr. Cortroy Jarvis



What we now know as Cana Moravian congregation has its roots in Gracehill congregation in Liberta. Based on the report for Gracehill written by Br. J. L. Harvey covering the year 1862, ten meeting places or bible classes were established on the neighbouring estates and villages. One of these was in Swetes where many members of Gracehill resided. This was on a plot of land which was earlier given to the Mission for the purpose of a burial ground. A chapel-school was erected on this site where six persons had already been buried. This bible class quickly gained congregation status. The chapel was opened for worship on 25th February, 1863, and day school commenced 5 days later on 2nd March with Br. Jacobs as its head. The first pastor of this new congregation was the Reverend James LaTrobe Harvey.

We do not know how the name was arrived at, except that in his 1872 report on Gracehill, the Rev James Turner wrote: "in addition to the ordinary services, three meetings of a social character have been held for raising means for local purposes. Two were held in the Station School, and one in the school at Swetes Village, which in future will be known by the name of Cana, and it was recorded in 1884 that its funds were used for the enlargement of the school room at Swetes".

The minister's report for 1886 states, the work at Cana has been carried on as usual. During the year a new roof was put on to the chapel at the cost of £50 of which £15 was given by the Executive Board. The balance was raised locally. Bro. Emanuel George as head teacher at the school gave good support to the minister in ensuring spiritual and material growth, and an all round development for the children under his care. He formed the first choir at Cana, a tuning fork being the only instrument.

Although Cana was recognized as a full-fledged congregation in 1863, its apron string was still tied to Gracehill whose pastor continued to minister to its needs. It was not until the 1920's that regular Sunday services began there. However, baptisms receptions, confirmations and weddings for its members continued to be performed at Gracehill. It was from 1948 that baptisms and confirmations were administered at Cana. Wedding ceremonies were conducted at

Cana only after the dedication of its present building in 1959. Gracehill and Cana continued as one pastorate until 1952 when Cana was served by ministers of Greenbay and of Cedar Hall.

When the building located at its original site in St. Anns was becoming unfit for worship, the congregation decided on the building of a new place of worship. In exchange for lands in Old Road, the government gave the Moravians a plot of land adjacent to the government school, nicknamed Joshua Long Hall by the villagers. The school building became the interim place of worship during the construction of this building. Construction work under the guidance of the late Br. Samuel Benjamin, a member of Cana, lasted for under one year. It started in 1958 and was completed in 1959. The pastor at that time was Rev Allan W. Osbourne. On Sunday 25th January 1959, this building was dedicated to God's glory by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Gubi, who at the time was serving in St. Kitts. The Antigua Star newspaper of 27th January, 1959 in reporting on the dedication service stated, **the seating capacity of 450 was well exceeded early in the afternoon.**

Once fully established from a Bible class, Cana continued to show clear signs of growth, and developed into a small congregation as an outstation of Gracehill to a much larger unit with Sunday School, Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship, youth groups, adult, youth and junior choirs, a dance group, girl's guides and brownies, and a boy's brigade.

For much of the early years, Cana relied heavily on the services of lay pastors. These included the Brethren Emanuel George, Albert Peters, Charles Williams, Ernest Williams, Reginald Samuel, and more recently the Brethren Joseph Charles and Victor Williams. Over these 160 years, the congregation have been served by about 30 pastors, three of whom, George Oliver Maynard, John E. Knight and Neville C Brown became bishops of the Unity. In his book, **The Emergence of a Bishop**, Bishop Brown who pastored Cana from 1951 to 1952, and again after his consecration, titled its 3rd chapter, **The Best Wine Last**. This is in reference to Cana where he last served. He might be hinting that Cana was the best congregation that he had pastored, and that the experience there had a great impact on him.

In the book, he refers to Cana as a **"medium size congregation with extra large size aspirations**. He continues, **she is blessed with a group of efficient, committed**

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Theological Education Sunday

Sunday March 26, 2023 is Theological Education Sunday. At this time of year, we focus on encouraging people to respond to the call of God on their lives. This call may be within a local congregation or to the wider body. We believe that the Holy Spirit is prompting hearts to say yes. If you feel that call, speak with your Pastor. For those who sense the desire to do more, share this with your Pastor and other leaders and follow the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Special prayers are requested for our theological student, Sis. Chioma Henry, who is in her first year of ministerial studies and Rev. Neilson Waithe, Warden/Tutor at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI). Please also pray that God will raise up a new Warden/ Tutor after Bro. Waithe leaves.

The need for Pastors, Ministers of Christian Education, Missionaries, group leaders, and general church workers, is great. God knows the need of the church and has already placed those gifts in the body. Maybe you are one of the called. Seek God in prayer and listen for God's response.

In 2022, you gave EC\$28,658.26 for theological education and EC\$38,103.86 was spent. Thank you for your generosity. We look forward to God drawing more people into dedicated ministry to serve the kingdom of God in general and the Moravian Church specifically.



Quote of the Day

The way you think determines the way you feel, and the way you feel determines the way you act."

– Rick Warren–



Unity Prayer Watch 2023

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 April 03 - April 17, 2023. The Schedule is as follows:

Conferences are asked to observe the time allotted

Name of Conference/ Mission	From	To
Tobago/ Grenada Mission	12:00a.m, April 03	11:59p.m, April 05, 2023
St. Kitts	12:00a.m, April 6	11:59p.m., April 07, 2023
Trinidad	12:00a.m, April 08	11:59a.m, April 9, 2023
Barbados	12:00p.m, April 09	11:59p.m, April 11, 2023
Antigua	12:00a.m, April 12	11:59p.m, April 14, 2023
Virgin Islands	12:00a.m, April 15	11:59p.m, April 17, 2023

for our members to engage in this unbroken prayer chain. This prayer meeting began on August 13, 1727 when the Moravian Church had its Pentecost experience. Prayer is still a vital part of our walk with God and the life of the church. Let us therefore be in readiness for this prayer event as we continue to seek God's guidance and direction for our Church, the world. and ourselves.



Condolences

The Provincial family expresses condolences to Rev. Vankys Isaac on the death of his mother Ms. Beatrice Isaac. Ms. Isaac died on Thursday, March 9, 2023 in England at age 90 years.

Please remember Bro. Vankys Isaac and family in their time of grief and loss.

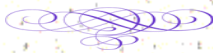


A Brief History of Cana Moravian Church cont'd from page 3

officers/leaders and a promising group of talented young people.

It was a glorious moment in the life of Cana when one of its sons, Cortroy Jarvis candidated for the fulltime ministry of the Moravian Church. In addition to him, God has blessed Cana in producing as servants in his vineyard Glenville Gregory, Eulencine Christopher né Richards, Algernon Lewis, Jeremy Francis, Nigel Daniel, Rowan Simons and Nevin Lewis. All of whom have made Cana proud. Cana's first product as pastor became chairman of the Provincial Elders Conference of the Eastern West Indies Province of the Moravian Church, and then chairman of the Unity Board. It is no coincidence that another of Cana's son is the current chairman of the Provincial Elders Conference.

The walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt because the people had a mind to work. This mind was evident in Cana throughout the last 160 years, and hopefully will continue into succeeding generations.



The Provincial Elders Calendar 2023

The Provincial Theme for 2023 is: **SHIFT: Reclaiming our Identity, Renewing our Purpose, and Re-igniting our Passion.**

The Provincial Board has discerned that God is calling us to continue with the theme of S.H.I.F.T. for the coming triennium/inter-synodal period. The added pillars identified for this period enable us to dig into who we are as Christians and Moravians. The Book of Order 2020 along with the book Moravian Treasurers are valuable resources in making the S.H.I.F.T. real and personal. This also fits into the discipleship thrust in the Province.

For Lent 2023, all staff are called to use the three pillars of the Provincial Theme for the six Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday. These themes can then be explored further in Bible study to add more flesh to the bones.

Reclaiming our identity, renewing our purpose, and re-igniting our passion. Broadly speaking, renewing identity speaks of who we are as Christ-followers; renewing our purpose speaks to why the church exists; re-igniting our passion speaks to our willingness to share our faith with others.

The hope is that at the end of 2023 our members will have:

- a) a greater understanding of their faith

- b) a better understanding of the biblical foundations of their faith
- c) be able to better articulate their personal faith
- d) be intentional about being the church
- e) be able to share that faith with others.

We will continue to work on the broad framework to guide this theme. In the meantime, we continue to work diligently to live faithfully as we follow the call of God on our lives.

MARCH

- 23 – Staff Development session – The Covid effect in pastoral ministry (Rev. Neilson Waithe)
- 26 – Theological Education Offering

APRIL

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 2 – Palm Sunday
- 9 – Easter Sunday

MAY

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 7 – Moravian Music Sunday
- 4-28 – PEC meeting Barbados

JUNE

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 29 – Staff Development

JULY 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer

AUGUST

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 16-20 – PEC meeting Trinidad
- 31 – Staff Development

SEPTEMBER

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 14-16 – Ministers Covenant Day
- Widows' Offering

OCTOBER

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 18-22 – PEC meeting St. Kitts

NOVEMBER

- 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer
- 30 – Staff Development

DECEMBER 1 – Provincial Day of Prayer



Birthday Celebrants March 15th—31st

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



Birthday Celebrants April 01– 15

Sis. Cathrine Governor	04
Bro. Elroy Christopher	04
Sis. Dorothy Graham	07
Sis. Gwendolyn Jacobs	08



Ordination Anniversaries



Sis. Georgette John-Cotton
April 14, 1997



Children's Activity Corner



**The Lord will guide you always,. He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land...”
Isaiah 58:11**

Find the names of these Biblical plants. Use the verses given if you have trouble. Transfer the letters to the lines below to find more of the verse above.

Purple fruit that grows on a vine
(Genesis 40:10,11)

1 2 3 4 5 6

A grain in a soup
(Hosea 3:2)

7 8 9 10 11 12

A grain used in bread-making
(Matthew 13:25)

13 14 15 16 17

Used for oil, or eaten green or black
(Exodus 27:20)

18 19 20 21 22 23

Tree that bears acorns
(Genesis 35:8)

24 25 26

Yellow flowers are made into
Sandwich spread

27 28 29 30 31 32 33

(Matthew 13: 32, 32)

Used to flavour candy canes
(Luke 11: 42)

34 35 36 37

Used in filling cookies
(Genesis 3:7)

38 39 40 41

“

12 18 28 13 20 10 10 7 5 10 20 26 5

3 13 5 10 10 13 3 17 5 2 5 33

1 3 2 33 5 36, 10 20 26 5 8

6 4 2 20 36 1 13 14 18 6 5

13 3 17 5 2 6 36 5 21 5 9 38 3 20 10”

ALL the words listed below are in this “Forty Days and Forty Nights” 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**.



Altar,	Forty days	Raven,
Ararat,	and,	Righteous
Clouds,	Fruitful,	sons,
Covenant,	Genesis,	Roof,
Creature,	God,	Shem,
Descendants,	Heavens ani-	Sin,
Destroy,	mals ,	Small,
Docks,	Holy land,	The great
Door,	Judgement,	flood,
Dove olive,	Livestock,	Violence
Earth,	Mate,	
Female,	Mountain,	
Fire,	Multiply,	
Float,	Noah,	
	Pairs,	
	Pitch,	
Food,	Rainbow,	

- In the Book of Acts after the apostles were thrown in prison by the high priest who got them out?
 - Martha
 - Mary
 - The angel of the Lord
 - They dug a tunnel and escaped
- In the Book of Acts after Peter and John were released and went back to their people, they prayed, and what happened?
 - Fire came down
 - The place was shaken
 - Lightning flashed
 - They went to get something to eat
- What did Paul write in 2 Thessalonians was the rule they had about someone who was unwilling to work?
 - They were to be carried outside and stoned
 - They don't get to eat
 - They have to do double next time
 - They don't get to have fun when it's fun time
- Who told Moses where he would die?
 - The Lord
 - Aaron
 - An angel
 - The Grim Reaper
- In the Book of Acts it says God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so much so that what?
 - He once levitated
 - Handkerchiefs that had touched his skin healed the sick
 - He walked on water
 - He granted each person 3 wishes
- When the disciples saw Jesus walking on water what does the Bible say they said?
 - "That's so cool!"
 - "Glory be to God!"
 - "OMG"
 - "It's a ghost!"
- Which person does the Bible say died at the age of 969?
 - Enoch
 - Moses
 - Methuselah
 - Count Dracula
- Who did Jesus give the "keys of the kingdom of heaven" to?
 - Matthew
 - Simon Peter
 - Paul
 - The Key Keeper
- In the Book of Proverbs, what does it say is the beginning of wisdom?
 - The fear of the Lord
 - Experience
 - Listening to your heart
 - Reading
- What does the Bible say God used to form the first man?
 - Dust
 - Water
 - Tree bark
 - Man maker machine

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

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
Floodwaters

1. C. Acts 5:17-20 (KJV)
2. B. Acts 4:31 (NIV)
3. B. 2 Thesalonians 3: 10 (NIV)
4. A. Deuteronomy 32: 48-50 (NLT)
5. B. Acts 19: 11-12 (ESV)
6. D. Matthew 14: 25-26 (ESV)
7. C. Genesis 5: 25-27 (KJV)
8. B. Matthew 16: 16-19 (KJV)
9. A. Proverbs 9:10 (KJV)
10. A. Genesis 2: 7 (NIV)

Bible Trivia Answers