



# Bethlehem Herald

Monthly Newsletter of the  
Bethlehem Moravian Church



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## “Abhor That Which Is Evil”

Submitted by:  
Rev'd Delroy Burley

...Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.  
Romans 12:9

This month, as we clear out space in our homes for the new things we will buy or receive, I want to challenge us to **clear out space in our hearts to make room for the best – Jesus as He arrives.** I therefore challenge you to ‘*abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good.*’

I am led to share with you about some detrimental things we might be tolerating in our personal life which are destined to have far-reaching implications for disrupting our **love, peace and joy.** To illustrate this I will share with you a scenario of a family who identified one way to keep evil out of their lives. The example is ‘the television’.



#### CONTACT US:

Rev. Delroy R. Burley, Minister-in-charge  
Moravian Gardens, Maxwell, Christ Church,  
Barbados W.I.

Telephone: (246) 428-8266 / 428-8284 / 284-8758

E-Mail Address: [bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com)

Herald E-Mail Address: [bethlehemherald@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemherald@gmail.com)

Web Address: <http://www.moravians.net>

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In this scenario, the family recognized that God had designed the home as a Godly sanctuary for their family, and they were aware of their God-given responsibility as parents to keep evil from gaining access, or a strong-hold in their homes. So, this family was very selective of what was allowed to be broadcast in their home, and in fact, they rarely watched television or movies.

*Sending Blessings of  
Peace & Happiness to  
you at Christmastime.*



Some may say that their approach is narrow or old-fashioned, but what is our argument when the apostle Paul clearly instructed all believers to ...**abhor that which is evil...** (*Romans 12:9*). When we really consider the definition of “**abhor**” we see ‘**to shrink from**’, ‘**recoil from**’, ‘**regard with disgust**’.

As God’s children, He expects our tolerance level for sin and evil to be low, and getting lower as we mature in the faith. In fact, we should have such repugnance for evil that we actively and continually guard against it from ever invading our own life or that of our family. But when we speak of evil, exactly what do we mean? Since Paul is the one who instructed that we should ...abhor that which is evil..., let’s look at this word “evil” in the Greek text to see what in his day Paul would have been speaking about.

The word “**evil**” conveys the notion of **anything that is full of destruction, disaster, harm, or danger**. It is regarded as that which is **associated with the forces of the devil**. It includes not only that which is dangerous to the physical body, but also that which is dangerous to the spirit or to the mind. So Paul is urgently telling us that we should have no tolerance at all for anything that would endanger our bodies or that would do any kind of damage to our minds or spirit.

As human beings, we tend to take care of ourselves physically. However, Paul is challenging us that we need to take care of our spirit and mind just as diligently as we watch over the care of our physical body. You see, if our spirit and mind becomes invaded by information or images that are evil, the entrance of those images into our mind and spirit can wreak havoc in our lives even when our eyes are closed in sleep, and for years to come.

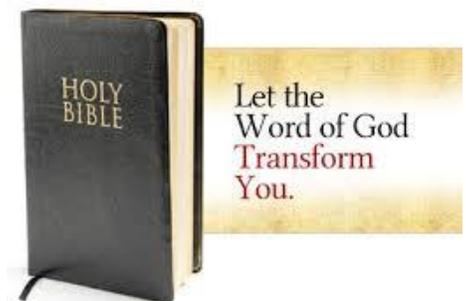
Our minds are like a movie screen and what we allow into our minds lives in our imagination for a very long time, playing over again and again, at will. So instead of watching, reading, or listening to that which is harmful or associated with the forces of the devil - garbage that will clog up our minds for years, why not take a safer and smarter route? In other words, purposefully restrict the avenues for garbage to enter our minds in the first place!

What can we do instead? Paul recommends that we need to ...“**cleave**” to that which is “**good**”. The word “cleave” is also a Greek word, which means **to glue or to cement something together**. This word denotes *a permanent connection*. The permanent connection Paul is encouraging for us is a permanent connection to that which is good. Good, as opposed to evil; good - being **something to be desired or approved of**. It is the picture of two things that have been so tightly joined and bonded that they are now permanently connected and cannot readily be separated. Good being **synonymous with virtue, righteousness, goodness, morality, integrity**.

*Philippians 4:8* supports this call – “*finally, my brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think of these things*”. And verse 9 says: ... “*those things which you have learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me do: and **the God of peace** shall be with you*”.

**Prayer:**

**Lord, we ask You to help us to be sensitive to the influences we allow in our homes and lives. We realize You have given us the responsibility to watch over our lives and the lives you have entrusted to our care, and that we therefore need to be careful about the information and images we knowingly allow to pass into our spirit and minds. Please help us recognize the influences that are acceptable and those that are not. When we are quickened in our spirit that when we are watching, reading, or hearing that which is unprofitable, give us the strength of will to turn it off, lay it down, or walk away from it. I pray this in Jesus' name! Amen.**



**THIS MONTH IN MORAVIAN HISTORY  
AT BETHLEHEM IN BARBADOS**



**WORD SEARCH  
'About Christmastime'**

‡	<u>1962</u> December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Island Conference agree to raise money towards the purchase of land.
‡	<u>1963</u> December 1 <sup>st</sup>	(Advent Sunday) First Holy Communion Service
‡	<u>1964</u> December 20 <sup>th</sup>	First Baptism (Ellis' Twin Babies)



**1<sup>ST</sup> CANDLE – PURPLE**

**The Prophecy Candle or Candle of Hope.** We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our Hope comes from God (Romans 15:12-13).

**2<sup>ND</sup> CANDLE - PURPLE**

**The Bethlehem Candle or The Candle of Preparation.** God kept His promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means “to get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O God! (Luke 3:4-6).

**3<sup>RD</sup> CANDLE - PINK**

**The Shepherd Candle or The Candle of Joy.** The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

**4<sup>TH</sup> CANDLE - PURPLE**

**The Angel Candle or The Candle of Love.** The angels announced the Good News of a Saviour. God sent His only Son to earth to save us, because He loves us! (John 3:16-17)

**5<sup>TH</sup> CANDLE - WHITE**

**The Christ Candle.** The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for His death, His death was for our birth. (John 1:29).

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

<b>POINSETTIA</b>	<b>SNOWFLAKES</b>	<b>MANGER</b>
<b>ANGEL</b>	<b>HOLLY</b>	<b>JOY</b>
<b>WREATH</b>	<b>CANDYCANE</b>	<b>PEACE</b>
<b>CANDLES</b>	<b>DRUMMERBOY</b>	<b>HOPE</b>
<b>BELLS</b>	<b>O HOLY NIGHT</b>	<b>FAITH</b>
<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>HAM</b>	<b>IVY</b>
<b>JESUS</b>	<b>JOSEPH</b>	<b>MARY</b>
<b>WISEMEN</b>	<b>BETHLEHEM</b>	<b>STAR</b>
<b>HAY</b>	<b>GOLD</b>	<b>FRANKINCENSE</b>
<b>MYRRH</b>	<b>SAVIOUR</b>	<b>LORD</b>

# This Month in Moravian History

## Who Invented the Moravian Star?

Every year, thousands of Moravian stars decorate homes and churches during the Advent season. Although the star has become one of the most recognizable symbols of the Moravian Church, the name of the maker of the first star was not known until recently. The biggest surprise, however, may be



that this discovery was not made in the archives in Herrnhut, Germany, but in the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem.

Moravian stars were traditionally made in Moravian boarding schools during the Advent

season. From the schools they spread into Moravian homes and later into the churches as well. Because of the connection with the boarding schools, historians assumed that the making of stars was connected to math lessons where students learned to draw and make geometrical shapes.

“It has been known for many years that the earliest star we know of was used as a decoration at the fiftieth anniversary of the Moravian boarding school for boys in Niesky, Germany, in January of 1821,” says Bethlehem archivist Paul Peucker. The report of the anniversary mentions an illuminated, multi-coloured star of 110 points hung outside the school building. “What we did not know,” continues Peucker, “was if this star was a new invention.” This summer a discovery at the Bethlehem archives has brought to light new information on the origins of the Moravian star. “As one of our project staff was getting ready to organize the papers of Georg Friedrich Bahnson (1805-1869), I realized Bahnson was a student in Niesky at the time of the anniversary in 1821. I checked his diary and yes indeed, Bahnson mentioned the star in the diary he kept as a fifteen-year old boy.” The diary noted on January 4, 1821: “In the courtyard the large star with 110 points from the Brethren’s House was displayed.”

Initially this looked like another reference to the earliest display of a multi-pointed star. Peucker:

“At first it seemed to be a confirmation of something we already knew.” However, a close reading of the short entry revealed new information. “Bahnson did not write, a large star was displayed”; the use of the defined article the suggested that the star was referring to something that was already known to the author.”

So when Peucker went back through the diary he found another reference to the star a week earlier. On December 27, 1820, Bahnson describes how he and his fellow students went over to the Brethren’s House: “In the afternoon we all drank and like yesterday, some of us went to see the star in the Brethren’s House of 110 points, made by Madsen.” This entry not only indicated the star was made as a Christmas decoration in the Niesky Brethren’s House (and not specifically for the anniversary of the school), it also revealed the name of its maker!

Christian Madsen was born on May 25, 1800 in Herrnhut, Germany. When he was seventeen he took a job in the hardware shop in the nearby Moravian town of Niesky. As a single man he most likely lived in the Brethren’s House. This is where he constructed his star of 110 points in December of 1820. When the Niesky boarding school celebrated its fiftieth anniversary the week after Christmas, it was decided to include Madsen’s impressive creation in the festive decorations. Madsen returned to Herrnhut in 1834 where he married Ernestine Henriette Schreiber the next year. After his first wife died Madsen married Auguste Charlotte Bischoff in 1851. He was head of the tobacco factory in Herrnhut until 1879, the year of his death.

So was Madsen the inventor of the Moravian star? “For many years we have considered the 1820/21 star the earliest Moravian star we know of. Now we also know the name of its maker.” It is possible new information will be uncovered at some point.

Georg Bahnson, the writer of the diary, was called to America in 1829. He served as a minister in congregations in North Carolina (Bethania, Salem) and Pennsylvania (Bethlehem, Lancaster) and died in Salem in 1869.

*Sources: Diary of Georg Bahnson, Bahnson Papers in Moravian Archives; D. Theile, Morning Star, O Cheering Sight: the Moravian Star and Its History (2008). Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, Pa. Issue 70 December 2011*

# Prophets and Prophetesses of the Bible "Isaiah & Hosea"

## RE-CAP...

### INTRODUCTION

If anyone were to ask you to name the prophets of the Bible you could probably name the more familiar ones known as the Major Prophets – like Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah – but do you know that there are many others? Prophets called Minor Prophets, not due to their significance, but because of the size of the Book within the Bible. Then there are others, without a Book recorded in the Bible. So, what is your understanding of a Prophet or a Prophetess? What is a Prophet's role? The smart answer is 'A prophet's role is 'to prophesy'. But what exactly is that?

### DEFINITION

The Westminster Dictionary of the Bible records prophet as 'an authoritative and infallible teacher of God's will'. You will recognise the expression "Thus saith the Lord", and "The word of the Lord came to ....., saying...". The word prophet comes from the Hebrew word "nabi" which means "one who announces", "spokesman" or "speaker", a person qualified by God to be his spokesman to men (in the feminine form 'nebiyah'). In Greek the word for prophet is "prophetes", – it is a "forth- (pro) telling or teaching (phetes)". It is an interpretation of the oracles of God, and when God's spirit solemnly declares to men what he has received by inspiration, especially concerning future events, he either speaks them or writes them down. A prophet in the Bible is considered a "spokesperson for God", someone who receives a message or messages from God and conveys them to others. A prophetess then is a woman. Should a prophet speak words that are not from God, he or she is considered a false prophet and the Bible provides evidence of such for our guidance.

### BACKGROUND

To prophesy is to "speak forth the will and mind of God, "to declare of that which cannot be known by natural means". Simply put, Prophecy encompasses two aspects – 'Forth Telling' and 'Fore Telling'. **Biblical prophets challenged people, even rulers, to remain faithful to God's commandments, and/or to repent and return/turn to God if they had strayed** – conveying God's message at times not just by speaking or writing, but also by performing various symbolic and/or miraculous actions.

### BACKGROUND CONT'D

With these concepts in mind, over some time, we will take a look at the plethora of prophets in the Bible. Last month we looked at Aaron – one of the not-so-familiarly mentioned prophets in the Bible, where we learned **that it is better to obey the will that the Lord has for our lives, rather than to sacrifice**. This month, the start of the Advent Season, while we will

consider **ISAIAH'S** prophecy, we will look at the prophet **HOSEA**.

### ABOUT THE PROPHET HOSEA:

Like Isaiah, **HOSEA** was a highly cultured man. His Ministry was in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and Isaiah's in the Southern Kingdom. Hosea's Ministry was active around the period 750 to 722 B.C, and he is considered the first of the Minor Prophets. The following bio-data is found about Hosea:

HOSEA	
Spouse	Gomer ( <i>daughter of Diblaim</i> )
Children	<i>Hosea 1:4-9</i> ; Jezreel ( <i>meaning "God sows"</i> ), Lo-ammi ( <i>meaning "not my people"</i> ), Lo-ruhamah ( <i>meaning "no compassion"</i> )
Parent(s)	Beeri

### WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

**HOSEA** was a young preacher. He preached repentance, about judgement and chastisement. But the people did not listen. He spoke of God's love but the people did not believe. Then God asked Hosea to do a strange thing. Hosea's relationship with Gomer is seen as an example of God's relationship with the unfaithful nation of Israel. What can we learn from the experiences that follow for this Prophet?

In **Hosea 1** we can relate to the heart-wrenching request – that Hosea should marry a promiscuous woman. As we did with the account of Abraham and Isaac, we can relate to Hosea's heart at that request, but of course that is Hosea's story! What about us? Do we recognise that God is calling us, too, to have a committed relationship with people even though they will not be committed to us - a people who will not be committed to Almighty God in spite of all that He has done, can do, and will do for them? God wants us to share in that heartache for the love of His people. For the sake that 'none should perish' we are called to love and to remain steadfast in God's mission for us to 'GO'? We need to learn how to have God's heart, God's heart for His people, God's heart for mankind.

In **Hosea 2** we are given a glimpse of the future – Israel will sin; God will respond; Israel will return to God and have the type of relationship with Him that was intended. The parallel is seen with God and mankind – we sin, we repent and return to God and begin the relationship God desires. **Hosea 3** parallels God's grace. Hosea parallels his own marriage to an unfaithful wife to the covenant relationship between God and Israel. This could be paralleled with Isaiah's prophecy (*Is. 53:12*) about Salvation for all who believed in Jesus (*John 3:16*). Hosea's act to buy Gomer back, and bring her back – to reinstate her position, but

without any contribution from her or what she considered she had going for her to accomplish things in life – her body – can be likened to God’s Agape love for mankind (*John 15:13*). Even though His people Israel had been unfaithful, God was unprepared to let them ‘go’, or allow them to lose their privileges. He was determined not to break His covenant with them (*Ps. 89:34*) in spite of how they strayed. By obeying this call to buy back Gomer without physical contact, Hosea would show that her reinstatement was not because of what she could offer or would have used to manipulate others around her, but it was because of who he (**HOSEA**) was in God, it was because of his character.

God’s love for mankind was and is not dependent on what we can offer – our resources, our time, our talent, but because of who God is, because of His character. Like Gomer, we have to learn to live our life with God without depending on what we once depended on to survive, and without manipulating others and things around us. We have to stop depending on our own resources, and put our faith and trust completely in God. One simple demonstration of this faith and trust is one of the most basic and least used command given to us in the New Testament - to pray (*Matt. 26:41, Luke 11:2-4, Rom. 12:2 & 12 Eph. 6:18, Phil. 4:6, Col. 4:2, 1 Thess. 5:17, James 4:3, 5:13, 1 Tim. 2:1-4*). Prayer builds a relationship with God and signals that we accept our dependence on God. Yet, we fail to have that open communication with God, we fail to just pray unless we want something.

#### WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

As prophesied in the Book of Isaiah, we have been hearing about the return of Jesus, and that these are the last days. The question for us today would be, are we doing all that we can in the time that we have allotted to us to ensure that ‘none should be lost’? That is Jesus’ desire, and that is Jesus’ desire for us to share - that all should come to a saving knowledge of Him, and none should be lost (*2 Pet. 3:9*). This is where we, His children, come into the picture, as His followers. We are His hands and feet, His ears and eyes, our bodies His holy temple and the lives we live should be a reflection of His Holy Word - the Bible (*Matt. 28:16-20*). **ISAIAH** was willing to serve the Lord even though he knew the people would not listen. He was not concerned about his royal status nor his position in society, he just wanted to do God’s will. **HOSEA** too, look at the effort put into his commitment to God and God’s command. Are we willing that ‘none should perish’ at all cost?

#### HOW DO WE MEASURE UP?

This **Advent Season** what can we take away from these accounts? There should be nothing too

much for us to do in response to what God has already done for us. The lesson to be learned from **ISAIAH** is that although the people may not listen, we are to GO. Jesus’ first Advent was embarked upon knowing that He would be rejected, despised, spat upon - yet He came for our sakes. The lesson gleaned from **HOSEA** is captured in the words of the chorus - “I’ll say yes, Lord, yes to your will and to your way. I’ll say yes, Lord, yes I will trust you and obey. When your Spirit speaks to me with my whole heart I’ll agree, and my answer will be yes Lord, yes” – A “Yes” that says - **Not my will, but thine be done** (*Matt.6: 9-10; Luke 22:42*).

## Christmas Gift Ideas



Show the ones you love how much you appreciate them this Season, keeping in mind their particular interests, hobbies and talents.

### Ideas/Options

1. **A Bible** – this is a cherished gift; can be an audio Bible for the frequent driver, a large print Bible for the mature reader, a slimline Bible for the frequent traveller, or a children’s or Study Bible.
2. **A Christmas or Worship CD** – chosen with the loved one’s musical interest in mind (jazz, classical, rock, R&B), this too can be a cherished gift.
3. **A Book** – for the ones who love to read there is nothing more enjoyable than receiving a new book (historical fiction, non-fiction, etc).
4. **An AudioBook Club Subscription** – provides the opportunity to listen to great Christian audiobooks.
5. **A Christian Movie or DVD** – for the movie buffs quality movies with Christian values (could be comedy, suspense, drama, educational).
6. **A Magazine Subscription** – enjoyable all year long (from weight loss to fitness, sports, music, sewing, gardening, golfing, and parenting).
7. **Christian Concert Tickets** – bless someone. It could be a favourite Christian artiste in concert. You could make it a group gift if tickets are really expensive.
8. **Witness-Wear** – there could be someone you know who loves to share their faith by wearing quality Christian-themed clothing and accessories.
9. **Gift Certificates** – great option when all else fails. Allows you the flexibility to choose the dollar amount of the gift according to your own budget, (choose from a favourite restaurant, art and craft store, shopping spree, and more).
10. **Massage Therapy** – if life is hectic and you need them to slow down this gift would be greatly appreciated (facial, back, full-body, deep tissue, hot stones – there are many options.)

Adapted: <https://www.thoughtco.com/unique-christmas-gift-ideas-for-christians-700780>

## Fun Corner

<p align="center"><b>'A FAMILIAR GAME'</b>  <b>THIS MONTH - THE LETTER "D"</b>  <b>DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE</b>  <b>CHOOSE YOUR OWN FROM THE BIBLE USING "D"</b></p>		
<b>A N I M A L</b>	<p><b>DONKEY</b> (Joshua 10:12-14; Exodus 34:19-20; John 1: 35-37)</p>	<p><b>DONKEY</b> – The donkey, also called an ass, has some important biblical symbolism. Under the law of Moses, the firstborn of cattle and sheep were offered to God, but a donkey was redeemed with the sacrifice of a lamb – a symbol of redemption through Jesus, who is the Lamb of God. Solomon is anointed as King on a mule; Balaam's donkey protects and speaks; for Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as the Messiah, he rode on a donkey.</p>
<b>P E R S O N</b>	<p><b>DORCAS</b> (Acts 9:36-42)</p>	<p><b>DORCAS</b> – Also called Tabitha, was a Disciple who lived in the town of Joppa. She was prominent in the community and known for her acts of charity. When she became ill and died, she was mourned by the community who showed Peter the robes and other clothing she made for them. Peter sent them out of the room, got down on his knees and prayed, and said "Tabitha, get up", and she opened her eyes and sat up.</p>
<b>P L A C E</b>	<p><b>DAMASCUS</b> (Acts 9:2; &amp; 22:5-16;)</p>	<p><b>DAMASCUS</b> – Syria's capital and largest city. Saul of Tarsus (<i>later became Paul</i>) was converted to Christianity when travelling on a road to Damascus to persecute Christians. There he spent three days blind until he was restored.</p>
<b>T H I N G</b>	<p><b>DOOR-POSTS</b> (Deuteronomy 6:9; Exodus 12:7 &amp; 22; Exodus 21:6)</p>	<p><b>DOOR-POSTS</b> – Door-posts have great significance in the Bible. The Israelites were commanded to write the Divine name on their door-posts. In Exodus 21:6 it was used for a demonstration of eternal loyalty.</p>

### A LITTLE BIBLE TRIVIA

**Do You Know :** What is the shortest Book in the New Testament?

*(Answer next issue)*

**Last week's Answer:**

**The shortest verse is "Jesus wept." (John 11:35)**

### DO YOU HAVE A RECIPE YOU WANT TO SHARE?

*NEED SOMETHING HEALTHY AND HANDS-OFF  
OVER THIS BUSY HOLIDAY SEASON?*

## Herbed Chicken with Beets and Brussels

**SET IT AND  
FORGET IT!**

**LET YOUR 'BIRD' COOK  
WHILE YOU DO YOUR  
LAST-MINUTE  
CLEANING.**



### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. Salt
- 2 tsp. Paprika
- 1½ tsp. dried Thyme
- 1 tsp. freshly ground Pepper
- 1 whole Chicken
- 1 Lemon
- 1 large Celery rib
- 1 Red Onion
- 4 clove Garlic
- ½ lb. baby Carrots
- ¾ lb. small assorted Beets
- 12 large Brussels Sprouts
- 1½ tsp. Mustard
- Fresh Rosemary Leaves

### Directions/Method

1. Stir together first 4 ingredients. Remove and discard neck and giblets from chicken. Sprinkle chicken with salt mixture. Place lemon into cavity of chicken. Tie legs together with kitchen string, and tuck wingtips under.
2. Place celery, onion, and garlic in a single layer in a lightly greased 6-quart slow cooker. Place chicken on top of onions, breast side up. Arrange and tuck remaining vegetables around chicken. Sprinkle vegetables with any remaining salt mixture.
3. Cover and cook on low 8 hours or until done. Remove chicken to a serving dish. Rub skins from beets and cut into quarters; arrange with other vegetables around chicken. Garnish with rosemary. Whisk mustard into remaining cooking juices in slow cooker; season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve sauce with chicken.

<http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/food-recipes/a11638/herbed-chicken-beets-brussels-recipe-clx1014/>



## From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Delroy Burley

### The Season of Advent

Greetings and once again welcome to 'The Pastor's Desk' where I share God with you. The Season of Advent is upon us and we remember this time as the coming of Baby Jesus into this sinful world. The Messiah named Jesus, came as Baby Jesus, born of a Virgin – Mary – to reclaim us unto His own. Jesus came on a mission – His death to redeem mankind unto the Creator, God, from their sinful nature. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to reconcile us unto God Himself: **“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,”** *Romans 5:8.*

Therefore, the Season of Advent brings to light the coming birth of Christ our Saviour. As Moravians, we too celebrate His birth. “The Moravian Liturgy for the season is titled **“Advent”** as it stresses Christ’s coming with a hymn of praise to the coming Saviour,” *Adelaide Fries, 2003.*

**Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed  
His reign on earth begun!**

*1969 Hymnal, 71*

So as we draw closer to the celebration of Christmas Day, be sure to remember the true purpose of CHRISTmas. It is not just a time to reflect on the Baby Jesus who was born in manger in Bethlehem so long ago. That Baby was Christ, our Lord, manifest in the flesh. He was born to die for you and for me. Jesus Christ humbled Himself even unto death on a Cross! ***That is what Christmas is all about!***

Do you plan to 'herald' His Message? Do you plan to take the time this Christmas to tell your children and friends about the true purpose of Christmas? If so, what will you tell them?

People rarely think about the Cross at Christmas-time - more about the shopping spree and/or festivity than about the time set aside to focus the celebration on Jesus' Advent. In *Philippians 2:8*, Paul connects the two thoughts – **“And being found in *fashion* as a man, He humbled Himself, and became**



*obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”.* As Paul writes about becoming a man, he goes on to express the ultimate reason Jesus accepted this sacrificial deed. That word **“fashion”** is extremely important, for this was the precise word that was used in ancient times to depict a king who once exchanged his kingly garments for a brief period of time for the clothing of a beggar. How wonderful that the Holy Spirit would inspire the apostle Paul to use this exact word!

When Jesus came to earth it really was a moment when God Almighty shed His glorious appearance of God. For the sake of our redemption, God laid aside all of His radiant glory, took upon Himself human flesh, and was manifested in the very likeness of a human being (from a baby). This is the 'real' account of a King who traded His kingly garments and took upon Himself the clothing of a servant. But this story does not stop there!

Jesus, our King, who exchanged His robes for the clothing of flesh loved us so much that He ...“humbled himself, and became obedient, even unto the death of the cross”! **For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace** (*Isaiah 9:6*). This Season of Advent and/or Christmas bring Good News that a Saviour is born as we sing and listen to the Christmas carols.



**The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy** (*Repeat twice*)  
**And they say that His name was Jesus.**

**He come from the glory, He come from the Glorious Kingdom** (*Repeat*)  
**Oh, yes believer, Oh yes believer,**  
**He come from the Glory, He come from the Glorious Kingdom.**

*Prayer:* Lord we thank You for coming to earth so You could redeem us. When we think of the extent to which You were willing to go in order to save us, it make us want to shout, to celebrate, and to cry with thankfulness. You love us so much, and we are so grateful for that love. Without You, we would still be lost and in sin. But because of everything You have done for us, we are free; our lives are blessed; Jesus is our Lord; Heaven is our Home; and Satan has no right to control us. We will be eternally thankful to You for everything You did to save us! Help us to demonstrate our thankfulness through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

# Greetings, Information & News : From Home & Abroad

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PROVINCE

### Meetings

- From Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 the two Ministers of Music in the Province – Bros. Patmore Smith and Mikie Roberts will meet in the Barbados Conference.
- The PEC will meet in the Antigua Conference from January 25<sup>th</sup> to January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- The Superintendents conference will convene on January 29<sup>th</sup> to January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Other **PEC meetings for 2018** are as follows:

- Barbados Conference : April 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
- Tobago Conference : July 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
- St. Kitts Conference : October 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please bear up the members of the PEC, the Ministers of Music, and the Superintendents of the various Conferences in prayer.

### Ministerial Staff on Furlough

- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Conrad Spencer, Pastor of the Faith Congregation on St. Croix, Virgin Islands Conference, has been granted four (4) months' furlough from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
- The Rev. Ulric V. Smith, Pastor of the Cana Moravian Church in the Antigua Conference, has been granted four (4) months' furlough from September 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.
- The Rev. Hilton Joseph, Superintendent of the Moravian Church in the St. Kitts Conference and Pastor of the Zion Moravian Congregation in St. Kitts, has been granted four (4) months' furlough from January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

*Adapted: The Information Newsletter (December 2017 Issue)*

### Condolences

- We extend condolences to Sis. Nicole Barker, wife of Rev. Kirk Barker, on the death of her adopted mother, Yvonne Wellington in Jamaica. She passed into the nearer presence of God on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

*Adapted: PEC Ref. 385/17*

### Reminder

The PEC consulted with the Superintendents on the way forward with regards to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Synod and the resources it will require on all of us and more so, the Virgin Islands Conference. It was the general consensus that the Synod should be postponed for one (1) year.

**The new date for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Synod to be held in Barbados is July 05 to 11, 2019, with both days being travelling days.**

The PEC will continue to provide updates to the Province with regards to the restoration plan for the Virgin Islands in particular, as well as several Pre-Synod Conferences that are planned in 2018 in order to continue to move the business of the Province forward.

*Adapted: The Information Newsletter (November 2017 Issue)*

### Upcoming in the New Year:

- **Universal Prayer Week** will be observed at Bethlehem from January 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:30 pm nightly, with continued involvement of the auxiliary groups of the Church.
- **Prayer & Fasting** will resume in the New Year on (4<sup>th</sup>) Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 12:00 noon and 7:30 pm.
- **Annual Dressing and Undress of the Church for the Christmas Season** is upon us.
- **Church Council Meeting – A reminder that Reports (with Financials) are due.**

## Helping Hands – Our Mission Fields

✓ **Church Quota and Arrears** – In an effort to help lower our debt to the Conference, it would be prudent for us to pay an additional \$500 each month towards our quota arrears, while maintaining our monthly quota payments. As a result, to aid in achieving this target, each member is encouraged to contribute towards this amount on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Any amount donated will be appreciated.

✓ **Greetings/Birthdays/Anniversary Cards** – Strengthen our fellowship in Christ as we welcome visitors and help celebrate special occasions in the life of members and visitors. You can make a contribution of any amount to Sis. Diana Yarde or Sis. Anthea Barrow.

✓ **The new date for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province to be held in Barbados is July 5 to 11, 2019.** The Barbados Conference will continue to make preparations for this event. Members and friends of the Moravian Church are asked to support the weekly contribution of \$1.00 towards those costs for which the Conference will be responsible. This contribution will be collected on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.

✓ **The Cuthbert Pilgrim Memorial (CPM) Hall** is available for rentals – Conferences/Seminars, Meetings, Wedding Receptions, Graduations, etc. Just off the Maxwell Coast Road, minutes away from the Airport, it is situated within a quiet residential area, with ample parking available. To view/book, contact CPM Hall Manager, Sis. Eudora Mascoll (246-428-4784) or Assistant, Sis. Desma Linton (246-428-2962).



✓ **Bethlehem's Beautification Project** (Church and Grounds) is an on-going project. Lend your support.

✓ **This Newsletter - The Bethlehem Herald** is a monthly publication. You are invited to send ideas and articles to <bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com>

## Remember In Prayer



❖ **Our Sick & Shut-In/Recovering:**

Shut-in Communion/Visitation – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays

NAMES	CONTACT NUMBERS
Sis. Boothe Chase	246-428-6069
Sis. Mavis Chase	246-428-6258
Sis. Emily Forde	St. Philip Family Care 246-622-1897
Sis. Gracie Maynard	246-428-3678
Sis. Dorothy Waite	246-428-2877
Sis. Marjorie Worrell	246-437-1805
Sis. Odessa Haynes	246-426-8663

- ❖ **Barbados, its Leaders and its Citizens**
- ❖ **People & Regions affected by natural & man-made disasters.**
- ❖ **Persons grappling with the loss of a loved one.**
- ❖ **The work of the Unity and its Chairman.**

## Financial Status

Target: \$ 9,000 monthly  
Bethlehem's monthly Quota to Conference: \$4,796.67  
Quota Arrears: \$86,621.54

### Special Envelopes (December):

- CHRISTMAS OFFERING
- OLD YEAR'S OFFERING

*Please give to God what He truly deserves*

<u>Income for November 2017</u>	\$
Envelopes	2,324.75
Loose Offering	2,080.15
Sunday School	22.20
Harvest	1,808.95
<b><u>Other Monies raised November 2017</u></b>	
Rental of/Donation to CPM Hall	850.00
Donations to Gas	5.88
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>7,091.93</b>
<b><u>Other funds collected</u></b>	
'Quota Arrears' to Conference	441.00
'Convention'	25.00
"Youth With A Mission" Outreach	86.00
"Synod Walk-Up" to Conference	38.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>590.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,681.93</b>

## Walk-Up Offerings – Sundays:



1 <sup>st</sup>	BMC Building Fund	2 <sup>nd</sup>	"Youth With A Mission"
3 <sup>rd</sup>	32 <sup>nd</sup> Provincial Synod	4 <sup>th</sup>	BMC Quota Arrears

## Thank You

- ✓ To persons who willingly contributed to the **Hurricane Relief Appeal.**
- ✓ To all persons who continue to support **our Mission projects** - Youth-With-A-Mission, Build a Block Drive, etc.
- ✓ To the children, all Sunday School Teachers, the Elders and Stewards Boards, and other persons who assisted with the preparation for, and participated in, the recently-concluded **Harvest Festival, and Display and Sale of Produce.**



## Mark Your Calendar - DECEMBER

- Bethlehem's Hours of Worship:**
  - **Sunday School** : Sundays @ 9:00 am
  - **Divine Worship** : Sundays @ 10:00 am
  - **Mid-Day Bible Study** (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) : Wednesdays @ noon (resumes January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
  - **Evening Bible Study** (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday): Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm (resumes January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018)
  - **Pastor's Office Hours** : Fridays, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (by appointment)
- Advent to Epiphany Devotionals** (Reflections on the *WatchWord*) are still available – please receive your copy from the Minister or a member of the Elders' Board. Devotions were penned by members of the Bethlehem congregation, the St. Philip Fellowship, as well as the Calvary and Gracehill congregations). Contributions to defray printing costs may be given to the Treasurer.
- Assisting with the Worship experience this month:
  - The **Youth and Wider Congregation** with Cleaning and Preparing the Sanctuary.
  - The **Youth and Wider Congregation** with Readings and Prayer.
- Women's Fellowship Meetings** every second Tuesday @ 6:00 pm.
- Dance Ministry: Liturgical Dance Classes** continue on **Saturdays @ 3:30 pm**. All are invited.
- Shut-In Communion** will be administered on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> starting from 10:00 am.
- Nominations Committee Meeting** on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm
- Candle Light Service** on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.
- Elders' Board Meeting** on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.
- Christmas Sunrise Service** on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 am.
- Watch Night Service** on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 pm.

## Reminder

- It is **Christmas Hamper** contribution and preparation time. The contribution barrel is in the Church. Toiletries and other non-perishables are welcomed, please verify quality and expiration dates.
- Cost to complete the **Bathroom Project is \$47,800** – contributions in cash, material or labour are welcomed. **Build a Block cards are available** – We invite each member of the congregation to receive a **Card** and thereby seek to faithfully support the completion of the Church's Bathroom Project.

- Annual Reports** - All groups and committees are reminded to submit their reports for the 2017 Year-In-Review Church Council no later than **December 31, 2017** via e-mail to [bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com) and as a hard copy to the Minister.
- The Liturgy Book, companion to the Caribbean Moravian Praise (CPM) Hymnal**, is now available for those persons who ordered and received their copy of the CPM Hymnal.
- Membership/Confirmation Class** for persons (adults and teens) interested in becoming full members. Registration forms are available. Contact any member of the Elders' Board or make arrangements at the Church Office.

## Announcements

- The WatchWord for the Eastern West Indies Province is Psalm 105:8** – "He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations."
- The Moravian Voice Broadcast** airs on LIFE 97.5 FM every **Wednesday @ 8:00 pm**. Tune in.
- Evangelism Explosion Training** on Mondays at 5:30 pm. Interested persons are invited.
- Meeting of the **Island Conference** to be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 10:00 am at the Duncan C. More Educational Centre, Sharon, St. Thomas.
- The **Fulnec Moravian Church will host a Thanksgiving Service in tribute of the late Brothers Lisle Brathwaite and William Jones**, both of whom served faithfully at Fulnec and in the wider Barbados Conference on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 5:00 pm.
- The **Hurricane Relief Appeal** remains open to contributions.

## BIRTHDAYS - DECEMBER

- 02 – Sis. Marva Alleyne
- 02 – Bro. Alban St. Hill
- 05 – Sis. Gloria Layne
- 11 – Sis. Cicely Spencer Cross
- 11 – Sis. Claire Edwards
- 14 – Sis. Joan Bramoa
- 14 – Sis. Wendy Evelyn Knight



## ANNIVERSARIES - DECEMBER

- 10 – Bro. and Sis. Paula Mohammed (Bz)
- 03 – Bro. Omar and Sis. Gena Yarde

## *Truths/Tips...Something For Every Age*



### CHRISTMAS SAFETY TIPS

While you are rushing around this holiday Season doing your last minute shopping, please bear in mind these basic safety tips:

1. **Shop during daylight hours:** Always be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to how you carry your purse or wallet to discourage theft.
2. **Secure valuables:** Never leave anything of value out in plain sight. Jewellery, extra cash or other valuables could be placed in a safe deposit box or even in a secure, hidden safe within the home.
3. **Lock everything (windows and doors):** May seem obvious, but more often than not something is left open/unlocked for a brief unguarded moment.
4. **Control your social announcements:** Resist the urge to broadcast that you are going out tonight, or you have just purchased an expensive gift. Place gifts where they cannot be seen through a window, whether in the car or at home.
5. **Leave some light on:** Not the most eco-friendly advice, but the more it looks like someone might be at home the less likely someone might try to intrude.
6. **Activate your alarm system:** You might become distracted as you rush out the door. Do not forget to arm your security system.

### OTHER SAFETY TIPS

7. Make sure your real Christmas tree is not too dry (water daily). Dry trees are perfect for starting fires.
8. Do not connect too many strings of lights together. The general rule is three (3), but check the packaging.
9. Do not overload extension cords or sockets.
10. Always turn off lights before going to bed or leaving the house.

Extract: "<https://www.asecurelife.com/christmas-safety-tips/>"

*Answers from last Issue:*

1 (d) – Okra; 2 (c) – Cricket; 3 – Portugal; 4 (b) – Pelican; & 5 (c) – All of the above

*May your Holiday Season be filled with the Peace, Love and Joy  
that comes from our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*Wishing you a Christ-filled Christmas and a Blessèd New Year!*

*“Supporting the work of Ministry”*

**“Advance the Kingdom: Use the Keys”**