



Bethlehem Herald

Monthly Newsletter of the
Bethlehem Moravian Church



Volume 9, May 2017



Love Our Children - Today's Generation Tomorrow's World.

(Submitted by Sis. Joyce Walters)

As we reflect on the above theme for Child Month, our reflection will be based the following scripture – “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” - Proverbs 22:6.

Responsibilities of the Parents, Family and Church

Parents must commit themselves to Godly training and discipline of their children. Christian training has its purpose – the dedication of our children to God and His will, accomplished by separating them from evil influences of the world and by instructing them in Godly conduct. Parents must encourage their children to seek God for themselves and thus enjoy genuine spiritual experiences they will never forget.

The general principle is that a properly-trained child will not depart from the Godly ways taught by his or her parents. However, that is not an absolute guarantee that all children of God-fearing parents will remain true to God and His Word. When living in an evil society, where many of God's people are themselves unfaithful, the children of Godly parents can be influenced to sin and to give into temptation. In Ezekiel 14:14-20, God speaks of the abandonment of a belief or principle so great that even righteous men like Noah, Daniel and Job could not save their own sons and daughters. The parents' responsibility



CONTACT US:

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

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

E-Mail Address: bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com

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

Inside This Issue

Meditation – Love Our Children...	(Sis. Joyce Walters) pg. 1
Fun Corner: He Ascended Into Heaven	(Word Search) pg. 2
Child Month	Information/Tips/Alerts pg. 2
“Have Your Say”	– Unsung ‘Unnamed’ Young Heroine pg. 3
Special Feature: Church Sports 2017	pg. 4
From the Pastor’s Desk:	“Jesus taken up into Heaven” pg. 5
This Month in Moravian History – Moravian Music	pg. 7
Greetings/Information/News - from Home & Abroad:	
The Power of Vision	(Rev. Dr. Vincent Miller) pg. 8
Feature Article – The Moravian Disciples	pg. 9
Helping Hands – Our Mission Fields/Financial Status	pg. 10
Mark Your Calendar	– Celebration/Announcements pg. 11
Truths/Tips – Something For Every Age	pg. 12

is to instruct their children in the ways of God (*Luke 1:17; 12:34-30*). Parents are to turn the hearts of their children to love, and the disobedient to the wisdom of God and to make them people prepared for the Lord.

This is a clear statement as the foremost goal of the gospel is to re-establish God's will for the family, through the following steps. Parents in raising their children must encourage, as well as correct, punish only intentional wrong-doing, instruct with patience, and dedicate their lives in love to them with a heart of compassion, kindness, humility gentleness and patience (*Colossians 3: 12-14, 21*).

1. Lead your children to a life of Godliness in Christ;



DID YOU KNOW??

***MAY is Child Month.** This year's theme is: “Love our Children – Today's Generation, Tomorrow's World.” Listen out for our children presenting daily Radio **and TV Devotions** this month. Let's also remember to **say a special prayer for our children** who will undertake the **11+ Common Entrance Exam on Tuesday, May 2.** ***Moravian Music Sunday** will be celebrated this year on **May 21.** **Rev. Dr. Mikie Roberts and Rev. Dr. Ulston Patmore Smith** are the two full-time Ministers of Music in this Province.

2. Dedicate your children to God at the beginning of their lives (1 Samuel 1:28, Luke 2:22);
3. Teach your children to fear the Lord, turn them away from evil and lead them to righteousness;
4. Teach them to obey you as their parents; and
5. Protect your children from ungodly influences.

In every generation, each person has a choice

It may seem surprising when children do not follow their parent's example of faith in God. Equally unexpected is a person with deep commitment to Christ who emerges from a family where faith was not present. In every generation, each person has a choice, even though a person seems indifferent towards the faith so precious to his or her parents, God is still at work. Things can change in later years and seeds of faith may spring to life in generations to come. No matter what the family situation may be, we know that the Lord is good and His love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:5).

Tomorrow's world – The Legacy

Children are a heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127:3), all children must be viewed as gifts of God requiring wise and faithful stewardship. Only as the Lord's ways and commandments are accepted, taught and followed by the parents, will children experience God's full blessings. The Church's future Ministry is putting families right with God and each other. There can be no blessing from God or abundant life in the Spirit if God's people do not make family, authority, love and faithfulness absolute priorities in the Church. The purity and righteousness of the home must be maintained or our congregations will fail.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we bring to Thee the children and youth of our homes and schools. Arouse them to diligence in the morning of life. Fill them with the spirit of honour and reverence. Preserve them in honesty and integrity. Keep them in purity and health. Do guide them in all their thoughts, words and deeds. Allow the example of their Saviour to be their pattern in life and death. Accept our petitions, and hear and help us gracious Lord and God. Amen.

NATIONAL CHILD MONTH ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

Friday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m	National Children's Church Service at the Abundant Life Assembly, Bank Hall, St Michael - official launch to month of activities
Saturday, May 6 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm	March Against Child Abuse from Heroes Square (sponsored by 'Action For Justice' in association with 'Living Hope Ministries')
Wednesday, May 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m	Adolescent and Cyber Abuse Seminar to be held at the Almond Beach Resort, Heywoods, St. Peter (Sponsored by UNICEF)
Saturday, May 20 at 4:30 pm	A Panel Discussion on "Addiction & Substance Abuse" , to be held at the Church of the Nazarene, Bank Hall, St. Michael <i>EXTRACT – Child Care Board</i>

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN Word Search



And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Mark 16:15-16, and 19

Go Preach
Believe
Baptised
Saved
Magnify

Right Hand
Heaven
Nicene Creed
Son of God
Commemorate

Gospel
Promise
Holy Spirit
Raised
Redeemer
Observe

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

CYBER SECURITY – Staying Safe, Staying Legal



- It may be tempting to purchase or download copied games, but this is unlawful and it also requires you to make changes to your computer in order to play these games – which can of course damage your computer and expose you to unsuitable content and viruses affecting your system. Make sure you install a valid and up-to-date Antivirus, with malware protection.
- Ask questions at the Store when purchasing games, and get familiar with the age-rating system at the front and/or back of games packaging.
- If you are active on social networking sites, set your privacy setting to limit who can see your content. If chatting to people or posting things online, make sure you keep your personal information private; such things as address, phone numbers, passwords, etc
- Ideally, passwords should be long with random upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do not include your personal details like name, birthday, etc.

(Random Tips)

Have Your Say...

Who would you call an 'UNSUNG HERO/HEROINE OF THE BIBLE'?

This Month's "Unsung" Hero/Heroine is ... A Young Herald

This month's 'unsung' person of the Bible is a heroine, and a young one too! As we celebrate Child Month we present someone who is young. This young female remained nameless throughout the relatively short record in **2 Kings 5:1-19**, where it is recorded that she had been forcibly taken from her Godly Hebrew home – one in which God is honoured, and His humble servant Elisha revered. Now in her home of captivity in Syria, this little maiden would have been counted among "the spoils of war" and she was secured by Naaman as a servant for his wife. This captive youth was brought to live among idolaters, but **like Daniel and the three Hebrew boys, she clung to her own faith in the living God**, and she was clearly not ashamed nor afraid to demonstrate her knowledge of Him.

Oh how we grumble at the slightest misadventure! But hers was a faith enabling her to live without any record of her grumbling about any feeling of homesickness in an alien land, and clearly without any resentment towards her undesired status or her captors. All that was recorded that she said was just one single sentence – "Would God my Lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy". **This young slave was a Herald!** Her love for God inspired her to show love for her masters and although only a maid, this Godly girl did not feel she was too unimportant to share the Good News and influence others for the Lord God Almighty she had known and loved in her now distant Hebrew home.

While Naaman's wife was not known to be a follower of Almighty God, she must have been at her wits end and at the same time have some measure of respect for the faith of her maid who must have lived it out in her home of captivity. Naaman's wife therefore told her leprosy-stricken husband – a reputed mighty man of valour; a captain of the host of the King of Syria - the good news her maid of the land of Israel had so fearlessly and positively declared. This great soldier must too have been anxious for relief for himself and his wife, and in some way too he must have had some measure of respect for this God of Abraham, Isaac and

Jacob – possibly having been influenced by this young maid's countenance in his home, either through his wife's reports, through his own observation, or from other sources – but he believed and acted on what the captive maid had said, and shared her testimony of faith with his ruler. This maid's sphere of influence now spread at very high levels as this ruler, sent and asked the King of Israel that Elisha might be allowed to cure his decorated diseased commander from the other side.

One Word in season with the power to touch several lives – Naaman's wife, Naaman, the Syrian King, the King of Israel and his ... who had witnessed him rent his clothes. That one Word in season also touched Elisha, and his servant Gehazi (who was sent to convey Elisha's message for healing that if Naaman desired to be cured of his leprosy he must bathe himself seven times in the muddy water of Jordan). Also touched by that one Word were the servants who travelled with Naaman and had witnessed his wounded pride, and encouraged him to follow the instructions, and who also witnessed the immediacy of Naaman's healing upon submission. All men and women, like us, with the choice of how to respond in the circumstance!

Although somewhat humiliated by his 'lack of reception' by Elisha for a man of his stature, when his temper cooled Naaman, reminded of the faith of this nameless, captive slave girl, chose to respond by carrying out the prophet Elisha's instructions, and his choice was blessed. (Gehazi's choice of running after the silver and garments that Elisha refused was not blessed. (see 2 Kings 5:20-27). Naaman not only returned home completely healed, but also no longer a worshiper of idols, but a worshiper of The Most High God, having confessed his faith to Elisha: "Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel:...". No doubt, following Naaman's return, his entire household, like him, must have come to worship Almighty God.

What is the message of this heroine from this record? **Despite being captive this young maiden remained true to her God in an idolatrous household.** Like a Herald she sounded the news of the Power of Almighty God to Heal, and left the rest to Jehovah Rapha – 'the God who Heals'. This must be the message to us today.

God can heal the situations in our lives – just continue to serve Him in all things; speak His Word in love, in season; and leave the rest up to "I AM that I AM" – the One True God for every situation.



Church Sports 2017

FROM 4TH PLACE TO 3RD PLACE – A GOAL ACHIEVED



On Saturday, April 9, Bethlehem wearing their purple T-shirts joined with other congregations across the Barbados Conference to participate in our Annual 'Fun, Sports and Fellowship Day'. This year it was held at the Briar Hall Sports Complex.

Advice from our Coach

To be successful it is not enough to have ability, but to be committed and determined to achieve the goals. 'Team Bethlehem' has been showing their determination and commitment over the years. (Bro. David)



Congratulations from our Sunday School Superintendent

I would like to congratulate the Bethlehem Sports Team (*Athletics & Parade*) on its exemplary approach to the Sports and Fellowship Day. It is admirable to see the teamwork and effort of our youth as they encourage each other **to give of their best through practice and prayer.** (Sis. Anthea)



Thoughts from our Parade Choreographers & Trainers

At every practice session I asked them if they really want to do this, they excitedly said 'yes', gave of their best and won. All of them were very happy. A word of encouragement would be **to never give up.** (Bro. Remington). The goal of the cheerleaders was known and embraced by each of the members and so they were committed and **worked as a team encouraging and supporting each other.** (Sis. Clauzel). I am happy that the cheerleaders achieved their goal. **Job well done.** (Sis. Katrina)

Sports Captain's Reflection

The climb: I can remember as a young lad growing up in Bethlehem and competing year after year, but Bethlehem really was not making it into the top positions. Yet our youth continued for the fun of it, for the fellowship of it, for the love of it, for our congregation. I knew that because we were a small congregation to reach the medalling position would require years, but that we could make it a reality.

In 2009 I approached Bro David about becoming our future coach. He accepted and **we started training** – for Sports yes, but also **for fitness and building team-work.** We steadily improved and I continued to challenge the team. In 2010 we placed 7th and the climb began.

From 2011 I was appointed Captain - that year we placed 6th. Then in 2012 we came 5th, and in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 we placed 4th. It seemed we had become stuck in this 4th position. In 2014 one of our teammates – Sis. Ashley – designed (*emblem shown at far left*) a **'motivational' Sports T-Shirt.** We invested in matching track shoes (*at top right*) and continued to encourage the team to keep up their keen participation. I also challenged the Church to **'don' purple**, come out and support the athletes.

It is with great joy that we celebrate this year's 'Goal Achieved' – Bethlehem broke into the medalling positions and placed 3rd. At last!

Events: Throughout the years, events have included the Parade, 50, 80, 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1,500 (open) Track Events, and the 4x1 Relays; Cricket Ball, Potato, Line and Spoon, and Sack Races; 40+ Walking Race; and Teachers and 'Going To Church' Dress-Up/Down or 'Catch the School Bus' Races.

Key Achievements: We have successfully held 1st position in the men's 4 x 100 M 16+ relay for 5 years - 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2017. We have also been finalists in the Tug-O-War for a number of years. All our young ladies and lads have continued to come out and to compete, and by so doing have added value to the overall team effort. **Everyone should be commended.** (Bro. Shane)

How we Medalled

Potato Races	3-4; 5-6; 7-9	Zionne, Jade, Kelisha	3 rd , 2 nd , 2 nd
Lime+Spoon	13-15	Donnico	2 nd
200s	10-12; 13-15; 16-20; 21+	Renisha, Dimitri, Donovan, Kemar	1 st , 1 st , 2 nd , 1 st
100s	10-12, 13-15; 16-20; 21+; Teachers	Richlyn, Renisha, Dimitri, Romario, Kemar	3 rd , 2 nd , 2 nd , 3 rd , 2 nd
4 x 1 Relays	Under 15; 16+	Israel, Alex Daniel, Dimitri, Shane, Romario, Donovan, Kemar	1 st 1 st
Parade	Sis. Clauzel, Arianna, Arielle, Charlene, Destiny, Jade, Kelisha, Keshanna, Meisha, Renisha, Richlyn, Tamia		1 st
Tug-O-War	Rev. Burley, Shane, Kevin, Romario, Kemar, Dimitri, Donovan, Alex, Keon, Daniel		1 st

Encouragement from our Minister, Rev. Burley

Sports Day has always been a thrilling experience both being engaged in the activities and as a spectator capturing the day of idyllic weather with the crowds and participants of swirling colours, scattered all over the grassy green field. **Maintain the sweet 'Fellowship'.** Overall, everyone had a great and exciting day. **Well done to all** who raced, paraded, or 'pulled', our Parent-Helpers and those who supported – **everyone's input made the difference.** To God be the glory...great things He hath done! But remember, **'success is never permanent and failure is never final'**, so **keep pressing on.**



From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Delroy Burley

'Jesus taken up into Heaven' (Acts 1:1-11)

Greetings and once again welcome to the Pastor's Desk where I share God with you. Particularly, I will look at the **Ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ** in depth for our spiritual understanding and growth in grace. It is titled **"Jesus taken up into Heaven"** and my text is Acts 1:1-11.

Just a few weeks ago we celebrated the period of Lent, and Easter - of our risen Lord. After His resurrection, Jesus remained on earth for forty days and ministered to His disciples. He had already opened their minds to understand the Old Testament message about Himself (*Luke 24:44-48*), but there were other lessons they needed to learn before they could launch out in their new ministry for Christ. Jesus appeared and disappeared during those forty days, and the believers never knew when He might show up. It was excellent preparation for the Church because the days were soon coming when He would no longer be on earth to instruct them personally. We believers, Christians today, never know when our Lord may return, so our situation is somewhat similar to theirs.

The Lord taught them several important lessons during that time of His special ministry and I share these lessons with you. Firstly, **the reality of His resurrection (v. 3)**. Some of the believers may have had their doubts forty days before (*Mark 16:9-14*), but there could be no question now that Jesus had indeed been raised from the dead. To strengthen their faith, He gave them "many infallible proofs" which Luke did not explain. We know that when Jesus met His disciples, He invited them to touch His body, and He even ate before them (*Luke 24:38-43*). Whatever proofs He gave, they were convincing.

Further to this, faith in His resurrection was important to the Church because their own spiritual power depended on it. Also, the message of the Gospel involves the truth of the Resurrection (*Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8*); and, if Jesus were dead, the Church would be speechless. Finally, the official Jewish position was that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body from the tomb (*Matthew 28:11-15*), and the believers had to be able to refute this as they witnessed to the Nation. These believers were chosen to be special witnesses of Christ's resurrection, and that was the emphasis in their ministry (*Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:30-32*). Most of the people in Jerusalem knew that Jesus of Nazareth had been crucified, but they did not know that He had been raised from the dead. By their words, their walk, and their mighty works,

the believers told the world that Jesus was alive! This was 'the sign of Jonah!' that Jesus had promised to the Nation (*Matthew 12:38-41*) - His death, burial, and resurrection.

Secondly, **the coming of His Kingdom (v. 3)**. This refers to the reign of God over the hearts and lives of those who have trusted Him (*Matthew 6:33; Romans 14:17; 1 John 3:1-9*). When you read the four Gospels, you discover that the Apostles had a strongly political view of the Kingdom and were especially concerned about their own positions and privileges. Being loyal Jews, they longed for the defeat of their enemies and the final establishment of the glorious Kingdom under the rule of King Messiah. They did not realize that there must first be a spiritual change in the hearts of the people (*Luke 1:67-79*). Jesus did not rebuke them when they "kept asking" about the future Jewish Kingdom (*Acts 1:7*). After, He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (*Luke 24:44*) so they knew what they were asking. God has not revealed His timetable to us, and it is futile for us to speculate. The important thing is not being curious about the future, but to be busy in the present sharing the message of God's spiritual Kingdom. This is another emphasis in the Book of Acts (*Acts 8:12; 14:22; 20:25; 28:23,31*).

Thirdly, **the power of His Holy Spirit (vv. 4-8)**. John the Baptist had announced a future baptism of the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; & Acts 11:16*), and now that prophecy would be fulfilled. Jesus had also promised the coming of the Spirit (*John 14:16-18,26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15*). It would be an endowment of power for the disciples so that they would be able to serve the Lord and accomplish His will (*Luke 24:49*). John had spoken about "the Holy Spirit and fire," but Jesus said nothing about fire. Why? Because the "baptism of fire" has to do with future judgment when the Nation of Israel will go through tribulation (*Matthew 3:11-12*). The appearing of "tongues of fire" at Pentecost (*Acts 2:3*) could not be termed a baptism. A key verse for us as Christians can be found in Acts 1:8. To begin with, it explains that the power of the Church comes from the Holy Spirit and not from man - not even the higher positions within the Church's administration - not the Bishop, Pastor or anyone who has been given pastoral responsibility over God's people. Hence, as revealed in Zechariah 4:6, God's people experienced repeated fillings of the Spirit as they faced new opportunities and obstacles (*Acts 2:4; 4:8,31; 9:17; 13:9*). Ordinary people were able to do extraordinary things because the Spirit of God was at work in their lives. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit is not a luxury; it is an absolute necessity.

Emphatically, the word "Witness" is a key word in the Book of Acts and is used twenty-nine times as either a verb or a noun. A "Witness" is somebody who tells what he has seen and heard (*Acts 4:19-20*). When you are on the witness stand in court, the judge is not interested in your ideas or opinions; he only wants to hear what you know

first-hand. Our English word ‘martyr’ comes from the Greek word translated “witness”, and many of God’s people have sealed their “Witness” by laying down their lives.

We hear a great deal these days about “soul winning”, and the emphasis is a good one. However, while some of God’s people have a calling to evangelism (*Ephesians 4:11*), all of God’s people are expected to be witnesses and tell the lost about the Saviour. Not every Christian can bring a sinner to the place of faith and decision ‘though most of us could do better’, but every Christian can bear faithful witness to the Saviour. “A true witness delivereth souls” (*Proverbs 14:25*). Acts 1:8 also gives us a general outline of Acts as it describes the geographical spread of the Gospel: from Jerusalem (*Acts 1-7*) to Judea and Samaria (*Acts 8-9*), and then to the Gentiles and to the ends of the earth (*Acts 10-28*). No matter where we live, as Christians we should begin our “Witness” at home and then extend it “into all the world”. As Dr. Oswald J. Smith said, “The light that shines the farthest will shine the brightest at home”.

Finally, **the assurance of His coming again (vv. 9-11)**. Our Lord’s ascension into heaven was an important part of His Ministry, for if He had not returned to the Father, He could not have sent the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (*John 16:5-15*). Also, in heaven today, the Saviour is our interceding High Priest, giving us the grace that we need for life and service (*Hebrews 4:14-16*). He is also our Advocate before the Father, forgiving us when we confess our sins (*1 John 1:9-2:2*). The exalted and glorified Head of the Church is now working with His people on earth and helping them accomplish His purposes (*Mark 16:19-20*). As the believers watched Jesus being taken up to glory, two angels appeared and gently rebuked them. Angels play an important role in the Ministry described in Acts, just as they do today, even though we cannot see them (*Acts 5:19-20; 8:26; 10:3-7; 12:7-10,23; 27:23*). The angels are the servants of the saints (*Hebrews 1:14*).

The two messengers gave the believers assurance that Jesus Christ would come again, just as He had been taken from them. This seems to refer to His public “coming in clouds” (*Matthew 24:30; 26:64; Revelation 1:7*) rather than to His coming for His church in a moment “in the twinkling of an eye” (*1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*). Regardless of what news different people may take of God’s prophetic programme, Christians agree that **Jesus is coming again** and that **He can come at any time**. This in itself is a great motivation for faithful Christian service (*Luke 12:34-48*). Amen.

Prayer:

Father, be to us an inspiration of hope. We pray that by your Holy Spirit we will submit our will to Yours and be faithful witnesses of You as we ‘advance your Kingdom’; ‘use Your keys’. Amen.

SIGNS OF MATURED CHRISTIANS

- ✓ They speak the truth at all times
- ✓ They are good listeners
- ✓ They hardly take offense
- ✓ They are quick to forgive
- ✓ They are reliable
- ✓ They are supportive
- ✓ They have appetite for prayer and fasting
- ✓ They rely on the Word of God
- ✓ The more God lifts them up, the more they become humble
- ✓ They hardly defend themselves
- ✓ They are quick to repent
- ✓ They seek peace and pursue it
- ✓ They love people and they are compassionate
- ✓ They know when to talk and when to be quiet
- ✓ They are full of wisdom in many aspects of life
- ✓ They respect people and are very sensitive to people’s feelings
- ✓ They have a lot of patience and they are not short-tempered
- ✓ They fear God
- ✓ They give honour where it is due
- ✓ They are content with what they have
- ✓ They have good leadership skills
- ✓ They are hospitable
- ✓ They are not carried away by all kinds of teachings
- ✓ They are good followers
- ✓ They have a sacrificial spirit
- ✓ They don’t gossip and look down on people
- ✓ They have faith
- ✓ They take part in Church activities and attend church regularly
- ✓ They are clean in every aspect of life
- ✓ Their spirits are sensitive, they hate sin
- ✓ They don’t act holier than others
- ✓ They don’t compete with others

Ask yourself: ‘Am I a matured Christian?’

May God give us the grace to identify and work on our weak areas.

Have Your Say

In this issue we shared the marvellous, yet simple works of an unnamed slave girl – a true Herald for the Lord, who in spite of her circumstance shared her faith in God and blessed others as a result. Who will you share for **next month’s ‘Unsung Hero or Heroine’ from the Bible?**

This Month in Moravian History

A HISTORY OF MORAVIAN MUSIC

When the Moravians settled in Bethlehem in 1742, Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf carefully chose the inhabitants of this new community according to their skills so they could contribute to the mission work of this new village. Therefore, it was not accidental that many of the leaders, artisans and workers were also musicians. The first



pipe organ of Bethlehem was installed in 1746, small orchestra was already founded in 1748, and in 1754, a complete choir of trombones (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) was sent to the new colony, and the Moravian Trombone Choir was created. This unique ensemble still performs regularly and can be seen at least once every month playing hymn chorales from the belfry of Central Moravian Church.

Christian Gregor (1723-1801) is known as the “Father of Moravian Church music” and was responsible for the first Moravian hymnal, the *Choralbuch* of 1784. Many of the early American Moravian clergy were also composers, and created many favorite Moravian hymns that are still sung today including “Sing Hallelujah, Praise the Lord,” composed by Bishop John Christian Bechler (1784-1857). **One of the traditions that began with Count Zinzendorf was that of the Singstunde or a song service, where the pastor would begin singing various hymns, and the sermon was presented through the texts of the hymns.** For the organist, it meant that 400 hymns had to be memorized and readily transposed into whatever key the pastor began singing.

Although most Moravian music was religious in nature, there were lighter moments as evidenced by the presence of the early 19th century Moravian Water Music. Although no longer continued, for many years, on Whit Monday, a large flat-bottomed boat would sail down the then-peaceful Lehigh River. On this boat would be a group of five or six musicians (generally two clarinets, two French horns, and two bassoons) who would serenade the hundreds of listeners on the banks of the Lehigh with water music composed by the Moravian composer and virtuosi violinist, David Moritz Michael.

Because of the close connection of early American Moravians to their European roots, the Moravians had access to contemporary music being composed in Europe. Haydn’s “The Creation” was performed for the first time in the United States in the Sanctuary of Central Moravian Church in 1811, and the first complete performance of Bach’s Mass in B Minor was presented at Central in 1900, thus giving Central Moravian Church status as a National Landmark of Music. **For more information contact the Moravian Music Foundation at www.moravianmusic.org.**

THE MORAVIAN MUSIC HERITAGE IS ALIVE AND WELL!

The Moravian music heritage is alive and well, and for this glorious past and present gift, we thank God. The richness of Moravian music arises from the hearts of its composers, text-writers, and musicians.

People often ask, **“What is Moravian music?”** The answer? **Music written or arranged by Moravians, or based on Moravian texts or tunes. Music, for Moravians, is the number-one way we respond to the love of God in Christ.** Our first impulse is to sing – words alone can’t express the great joy we know when we feel God’s love shown to us in the life, sufferings, death and resurrection of our Saviour. Listening to others isn’t enough. God has given to the Moravian Church a heart for music, and special gifts in composing music, writing words, and singing and playing from the heart.

On this Sunday, set aside for us to recognize the value that our music has played in our worship and in our lives, we are thankful that God gave us this gift, this peculiar phenomenon that certain ways of **combining sounds, pitches and rhythms and words, can touch our hearts as well as our minds, can express things**



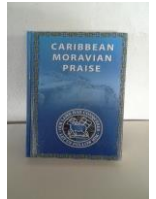
which mere words cannot, and can draw us closer to one another and to our God. ...

The value of the music program in your church does not depend upon numbers. It depends upon the hearts of those involved. And **the most significant part of the music program of any congregation is not its choir, or band, or even its music staff – it’s the congregation itself.** The congregation itself is the “first choir”. **The richness of Moravian music arises from the hearts of those who practice it, and in their connection to the Lord.** Visitors to Moravian congregations feel this and are moved by it.

We thank God for the many composers throughout the **Eastern West Indies Province** who over the years have used their God-given gifts to enrich God’s Church and bless His people. We especially thank God for all of our musicians who make our worship come alive and cement our faith. May the music of today’s service fill your heart and soul with gratitude for God’s gifts to the Moravian Church and with renewed dedication to service in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Extract: Moravian Moment #66 (April 20, 2008)

<http://moravians.net/joomla/about-us/34-moravian-moments/176-moravian-moment-66-moravian-music-sunday-2008>



Greetings, Information & News: From Home & Abroad

THE POWER OF VISION

by Rev. Dr. Vincent Miller

*"Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction."
(Proverbs 29:18 – NIV)."*

When I read this proverb, I remembered that God spoke often to His people through dreams and visions. God spoke to Abraham in a dream or vision and told him to leave Haran and take his family to the country of Palestine. By vision also God gave the prophets His message to convey to the people of Israel.

However, this proverb was written for both the individual and the Nation. The writer stresses the fact that all personal and national progress is achieved when individuals received and understand God's Word. Understanding God's revelation is especially important for those in leadership positions.

I like Eugene Petersen's translation of the original Greek text: "If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed." My observation is that Bethlehem Moravian Church is the fulfilment of a vision that God gave an individual, who shared the vision with others, who then approved the vision. The result is the erecting of a worship center, where God is worshiped, the gospel is preached, and individuals are nurtured into fellowship with Jesus Christ as disciples of Christ. Later, a Fellowship Hall was built to expand the congregation's outreach, and to strengthen its mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Today, what is God calling us to become and to do in this time of social and economic change? Another way of putting it is, where do we go from here? How do we respond to Jesus' command to 'make disciples of all people' in our ever-changing society?

God's people need to engage in a period of Bible study, prayer and discernment to seek God's way forward. Out of this exercise will come the revelation from God. After wrestling with the vision, a consensus will emerge, indicating that this is what God is calling us to be and to do. Let us remember that God gives us the vision. Vision guides to where God is leading us. It is the overriding idea of what the Church should be. It is God who shows us what kind of Church we can and ought to be. Vision, like

the star that guided the wise men to the Christ-child, shows us the way forward to the place where God wants us to be. Seek God's vision for the Church and follow it.

God, in Christ, has already given the Church its Mission: *To make disciples of all peoples* Matt. 28:19-20. **How we carry out the mission, our strategy, will vary from time to time.** As the community changes, so will the strategies we use to win people to Jesus Christ. Scriptures that inform our minds include:

The Vision: Matthew 5:48: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (2). Ephesians 4:4-6: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (3) 1 Corinthian 12: 1-11 (Concerning Spiritual Gifts).

The Mission: Matt.28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

As we celebrate **Moravian Music Sunday** a quick look at the Moravian Church's **VISION** in the area of Music we see there is much to recognise within our Province and Conference. This Child Month, as we focus on our Youth, we zero in on:

- ❖ **The Moravian Disciples** - "A VISION", but there are other areas within our Conference:
- ❖ the **Moravian Music Academy** another Vision realised at congregations in the Barbados Conference - Bethlehem being one such congregation;
- ❖ The **Moramus Singers of Barbados**;
- ❖ the **Calvary Steel Pan Orchestra** – also a Vision; and, as a Province:
- ❖ having a **Minister of Music** was itself a Vision.
- ❖ producing the **Caribbean Moravian Praise Hymnal** - another Vision (*to name just two*).
- ❖ There are **other Choirs, Chorales, and Performers** across the Barbados Conference keeping our members actively involved in the Work of Ministry through song, music, and expressions in dance, including our **Bethlehem Liturgical Dance Group**.

There are yet other ways to carry out the Mission – that Great Commission to 'go and make disciples of all'. Let's get involved – let it not be said "It's our Omission".

Indeed we are called together to function as one body and one Spirit, called to one hope - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all. **"SHARE THE VISION OF OUR LORD"**

Greetings, Information & News: From Home & Abroad



**Out of a Vision
A Youth
Chorale was
born –
The
Moravian
Disciples.**

The Chorale was founded in April 1996 with a membership of twelve teenagers representing congregations within the Conference. Today, membership stands at twenty-four and have included some very keen juniors, along with the other teen-aged and young adult members. The Chorale was formally initiated on January 18, 1997 (at its Inaugural Concert); and has since held annual Concerts on the third Saturday in January.

The Chorale's mission then and now is to **"Win Souls for Christ"**, done mainly through its music ministry. The emphasis of its music is on originality and creativity – with over 100 original songs written and arranged by its members. In 1999 the Chorale released an Audio Cassette titled **"Celebrate"**.



Overall the group's repertoire focuses on Contemporary and Caribbean rhythms ranging from reggae, calypso, R&B, to the traditional church harmonies and chants. Original pieces have also focused on our Moravian heritage and one such song is now included in the new **Caribbean Moravian Praise Hymnal** for the Eastern West Indies and Jamaica Provinces. That song, titled **"Rallying Around the Lamb"** is **#734** in the new Hymnal.

*"Moravians the war is still raging, there are still many souls to save.
Moravians look at our heritage, let's not fall to disgrace.
Stand up now and be counted, and spread the gospel news to all,
Our mission here can never end as long as people live in sin."*

In 2003, after seven years in existence, the Moravian Disciples were **Finalist in CBC's GospelFest Singing Competition in the Chorale category**. For two successive years (2003 & 2004) the Chorale was nominated for the annual ceremony for Gospel music in Barbados – the Flame Gospel Artiste Award. Then in 2007/8 the Moravian Disciples was recognised as **"Chorale of the Year"** and received the

coveted **"Flame Gospel Artiste Award"**. In 2008, the Chorale was also nominated at the national level and climbed to the **Semi-Finals in the National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA) in the Chorale category**. In 2013 the Chorale was a **Finalist in the CITA Radio Song Contest**.

Together, with its Manager, the Chorale makes plans for its tours and annual concerts, including the themes. They also share in decisions on uniform, song selection and presentation. The Chorale consists of a band of its own musicians who support their presentations on keyboard, drums, guitar, etc. For a number of years the group has also incorporated drama into their Concerts, which were very well received.

With all the distractions for today's youth, this Chorale has held it together and daily reclaimed its focus on Almighty God and sharing the Good News of Salvation and new life in Christ.

The Chorale's Manager, founder and leading song-writer is Mr. Andrew Parris.

"I possessed a tremendous love for writing poetry throughout my youth. Although the compositional strategies of poets differ from that of lyricists, it was during those early years that the seed was planted in my heart that someday I would convert my poetry to song-writing. Songs are great teachers, and music is a universal language. I believe that any music by which the Word of God can be carried must be acceptable to our worship. I truly love the Lord and the Word of God says "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15) and I believe that must be shared in the universal language of the people of "all the world. While I do not consider myself a musician I seem to possess a 'good ear for music' which allows me to motivate and challenge our singers and musicians to always work at improving their craft, reaching for higher standards and productivity, and to always be creative and innovative as they seek to Advance God's Kingdom through the arts - through song, through music."



The Chorale's other key activities through the years included tours to Antigua, Tobago, Canada (Toronto), and Trinidad. The next challenge for this now 20-year old Chorale, with God's guidance, is embarking on a drama production. Two members of Bethlehem are current members of this thriving Chorale – **The Moravian Disciples** – Bro. Kevin Yarde and Sis. Analacia (*Paul*) Yarde. **Let us give our support.**

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 4th 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 32nd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province** is scheduled to be held in Barbados from July 6-14, 2018. The Barbados Conference has begun to make preparations for this event, including fundraising. Members and friends of the Moravian Church are asked to make a weekly contribution of \$1.00 towards those costs for which the Conference will be responsible. This contribution will be collected on 3rd 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. Send ideas and articles are to <bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com>

Remember In Prayer



❖ Our Sick & Shut-In/Recovering:

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

NAMES	CONTACT NUMBERS
Sis. Boothe Chase	246-428-6068
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

- ❖ Persons grappling with the **loss of a loved one**.
- ❖ Our **Music Ministry** and The **Moravian Disciples**
- ❖ The continued ministry of **IS/IVCF** to our students
- ❖ **Sis. Andrea Pitt**, 'Youth With A Mission' Program
- ❖ The work of the **Unity & Board of World Mission**
- ❖ The **Jamaica Province** and the entire **Moravian Church** in this crisis.

Financial Status

Target: \$ 9,000 monthly

Bethlehem's monthly Quota to Conference: \$4,796.67

Quota Arrears: \$69,474.12

Please give to God what He truly deserves

<u>Income for April 2017</u>	\$
Envelopes	3,047.00
Loose Offering	775.00
Sunday School	47.75
Lenten Season	362.70
Easter Offering	716.75
Sub-Total	4,949.20
<u>Other Monies raised April 2017</u>	\$
CPM Hall – Rental	1,000.00
<u>Other funds collected</u>	
Quota Arrears to Conference	245.00
'Youth With A Mission' Outreach	105.10
'Caribbean Moravian Praise' Hymnal	70.00
Theological Offering	50.00
Unity Offering	10.00
Good Friday Offering	475.85
'Synod Walk-Up Offering	71.20
TOTAL	6,976.35

Walk-Up Offerings (Sundays):

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

Thank You to all persons - :

- who shared in the worship experience throughout the Lenten Season; and those who made contributions to defray the cost of printing our **Lenten Devotionals** prepared by our own membership;
- who played their part in the successes realised at **Fun, Sports and Fellowship Day 2017** – the captain, coach and sports team, choreographers and trainers, parade team and parent-helpers, teachers, transportation and hospitality teams, etc.,
- readers, and those who assisted with the **Palm Sunday** decorations and the spiritual aspect of Divine Worship throughout the **Lenten and Holy Week Season**.
- who contributed towards our **Easter Bake Sale**.



A Blessed **"Mothering Sunday"** to all Mothers, Grandmothers, Great-Grandmothers, God-Mothers, Adopted Mothers, Mothers-in-Law, and 'Mothers-To-Be' caring for their unborn offspring.

Mark Your Calendar - MAY

☐ Bethlehem's Hours of Worship:

- **Sunday School** : Sundays @ 9:00 am
- **Divine Worship** : Sundays @ 10:00 am
- **Bible Study** : Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm.
- **Prayer Meeting**: 4th Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm.
Come and invite someone.
- **Pastor's Office Hours** : Fridays, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (*by appointment*)

☐ Assisting with the Worship experience this month:

- **The Elders' Board** will be assisting with Cleaning and Preparing the Sanctuary.
- **The Sunday School** will be assisting with Readings and Prayer

☐ Shut-In Communion on Tues., May 9th starting at 10:00 am.

☐ Liturgical Dance Classes – Fridays @ 6:00 pm. All interested persons are invited

☐ The Fundraising Committee Meeting will meet on Thurs., May 4th & 11th @ 6:30 pm.

☐ Please assist with our preparations for the fundraising venture **"Down the Rabbit Hole" – A Family Fun-Day & Fair (Sat., May 27th from 11:00 am)**. Funds will go directly towards defraying our rising Quota arrears. Tickets \$5.00. Donations for the various stalls are requested: **Cakes and Sweets Stall, Food Stall** (*including canned goods*), **Clothing Stall, Books Stall** (*must be in good condition*), **Games Stall, etc.** Ideas are welcomed.

☐ All Youth are invited to a special meeting on Fri., May 19th at 6:00 pm

☐ The T-20 Cricket Competition is approaching its end as we are into the Semi-finals. On Fri., May 12th at 7:30 pm at Market Hill in St. George **Bethlehem** as part of the **B.C.C.F Combined Team** will come up against Mount Tabor in the **Semi-Finals**. Come out and cheer on our teams.

☐ Moravian Music Sunday will be celebrated across the Conference on Sun., May 21st.

☐ The Board of Elders will meet on the Tuesday before Communion (May 30th) at 7:30 pm.

☐ Interested in **Ushering/Working the Projector?** – come to a meeting on Sat., May 13th at 3:30 pm

☐ The Old Hymnals are being phased out. Please do not miss out on ordering your personal copy of the new **"Caribbean Moravian Praise"** Hymnal - **COST: \$70.00**

☐ Church Membership/Confirmation Class for adults and teens. Those who are interested in becoming full members of this Church are invited to register. Registration forms are available from the Church Office.

- ☐ **Take The Challenge** – Do not stay in the comfort of our Church and expect visitors to show up. Let us be proactive. Let's get out there - invite someone to Church: Be radical about our hospitality and look for ways to do Church differently for the glory of God.

Announcements

☐ Moravian Children's Convention – Saturday, May 13th at Sharon

☐ Mother's Day **"A Salute to Mothers" Concert at Calvary** on **Sunday, May 14th @ 5:00 pm**. Talent within the Moravian Church will be on show. **Tickets \$10.00 each** are available and funds will go towards defraying the cost of hosting the 32nd Provincial Synod. Please assist in ticket sales.

☐ Lay Academy Classes will resume on Monday, May 29th, 2017 at 6:00 pm when assignments are due, including the night's Group Presentation.

☐ Conference Evangelistic Week of Services – (Mon. to Fri) June 26th to 30th @ 7:15 pm nightly. Theme: **"Using the Keys – Locking and Unlocking"**. Speaker: **Rev. Belinda Manswell Daniel** from Tobago.

☐ Persons interested in serving as Worship Leaders and Counsellors are invited to a meeting at Gracehill on Thurs., May 11th at 5:30 pm.

☐ The next session of **Evangelism Explosion Programme** in the Moravian Church **starts Mon., July 3rd** - equipping churches for friendship, evangelism, discipleship and healthy growth. **Please indicate your interest by Sun., June 18th.**

Congratulations & Best Wishes

- ☐ To the **B-C-C-F Combined T-20 Cricket Team** (*Bethlehem, Centenary, Clifton Hill and Fulneck*) – into the Semi-Finals with 5 points, having won two matches.

BIRTHDAYS - MAY

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 01 – Sis. Tanya Holder | 02 – Sis. Carol-Ann Edwards |
| 14 – Bro. Cameron Edwards | 16 – Bro. Daniel King |
| 25 – Sis. Anthea Barrow | 26 – Bro. Thomas King |

ANNIVERSARY - MAY

- 26 – Bro. David & Sis. Cherryann Ince



This Month & Upcoming (June/July):

Rev. Rudolph Holder Memorial Shield T-20 Cricket Matches:

→ **Semi-Finals: May 5th & 12th** → **Finals: May 19th**

The Laws of Cricket 2000 Code (5th Edition) will apply.

The next Conference Prayer Meeting will be Sat., July 22, at 6 a.m. at Centenary. Come let us pray together.

Truths/Tips... Something For Every Age

PERSONAL SECURITY AND PRIVACY

Privacy and safety go together because you use one to help with the other. ...In general, a lot of trouble can be avoided if you don't give out unnecessary information. For example:

- If you live on your own or are a single parent, there is no need to stress that to people you don't know anything about.
- If you are going to be on holiday for a week, and your home or apartment will be empty, then don't tell the whole social gathering where you live (that is exactly how burglars pick up useful information).
- If your collection of stamps is valuable, then as proud as you are of them, don't pass this information on routinely to absolutely everyone.

You may think these points are obvious, but I'm astonished at the number of conversations I hear or over-hear when people are (apparently without concern) giving away this kind of information to groups of people or around others in public places, or over the telephone to virtual strangers. You can't imagine it? How about this:

- "I need a quote on the kitchen so you'll need to come by the house to measure up – but it'll have to be the week after next because I'll be travelling to Italy until then."
- "I know it's summer vacation time, but could you come in the evening please, because I'll be at work all day and my teenaged girls will be the only ones here during the day."
- "I only get to wear this ring when I'm on break from school, otherwise it's kept in my Mom's safe behind her favourite painting in the"

This is not to promote a paranoid attitude, but one that's reasonably CAREFUL. Of course, most people aren't criminals, and aren't "out to get you", but it doesn't do any harm to BE DISCRETE!

Adapted: Etiquette Today

"OLD" FASHIONED MANNERS?

Old Rule : New Rule

OLD RULE: Men always open doors for women

NEW RULE: Whoever is leading the way, or is stronger or more capable of opening the door, does so. So you, whether man or woman, hold the door for those who are elderly or disabled, or carrying small children or shopping – it doesn't matter what sex they are either. Otherwise whoever goes first passes through, then holds the door a moment longer to help the next through. Anyone who has been helped in this way says "THANK YOU".

OLD RULE: Men rush around a car (which naturally they have been driving), opens the door like a chauffeur for a female passenger

NEW RULE: The driver – male or female – opens the door from the outside for a passenger to climb in. At the end of the journey, the driver would open the door for and generally help an older or infirm passenger, but generally could safely assume most people can cope on their own.

OLD RULE: Men give up their seats on public transport to women.

NEW RULE: Younger, fit people of either sex give up their seats to those less able to cope because of age, ill health, pregnancy, or heavy burdens.

OLD RULE: Men stand up when a lady enters or leaves a room.

NEW RULE: In a restaurant, a host or partner may rise to greet a new arrival, organise a seat and perhaps pull out a chair. There is no need for others to rise if the new arrival sits down immediately. At a semi-formal gathering when a new person arrives, or anyone leaves, it is normal for all guests to stand for greetings and farewells. This avoids exchanges between a standing and a seated person, which may have a way of being embarrassing. Of course, it is perfectly reasonable for someone to remain seated because of a medical problem or simply old age.

OLD RULE: A man walks on the outside of a woman while on a pavement (i.e. on the traffic side).

NEW RULE: There isn't one. Many young people don't know there even was a rule! *Extract: Etiquette Today*

"Supporting the work of Ministry"

"Advance the Kingdom: Use the Keys"