



Bethlehem Herald

Monthly Newsletter of the
Bethlehem Moravian Church



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*"Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!"
John 1:29 (ESV)*

'Freedom In Christ'

Submitted by:

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In a few weeks we will celebrate FIFTY PLUS years as a sovereign Nation - Barbados. It is a milestone worth recognising. We were once held as an Island in bondage and our people treated as slaves. Today, some 50+ years later, we celebrate a life free from physical bondage, and especially from the system of oppression called slavery. This is a significant high point in our history that as a Nation and as a people with a singular experience we can celebrate the essence of what our forefathers did to afford us this life of freedom today.

Yet, a greater freedom happened over 2,000 years ago. A man called Jesus went to the cross, as a lamb to the slaughterer. We do not know the date, nor even have a hard time pinpointing the year. Yet we do know that that event would change this world



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forever. That cross where Jesus died declared freedom to the world. A freedom that is available to all. Anyone who believe and receive Christ can experience this freedom. Freedom was declared and Satan was defeated.

Jesus was just beginning His Ministry. For 40 days He was in the wilderness

Happy 51st Anniversary of Independence Barbados



being tempted by Satan. He was then baptized by John the Baptist. Finally, as if to proclaim His calling to the Church he enters into the sanctuary and brings forth the Word. *Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty (freedom) to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty (free) those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."* Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

Jesus, the Christ, His purpose is to bring freedom. His purpose is to proclaim freedom. His purpose is to "set at liberty them that are bruised" "to preach deliverance to the captives". We do not have to live in bondage. We do not have to live under the curse of sin or the law. We do not have to live as if there is no way out. Jesus said again in *John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*; and in verse 36 as if to clarify His freedom he said (*v. 36*) "*Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*" Freedom has been proclaimed and the price for that freedom has been paid? Was the price worth it? Yes, it was for our freedom – yours and mine.

How many Christians miss this freedom? How many Christian who would have experienced the Blood of Christ in their lives still do not experience this freedom. Freedom from the colonial system is an act of law. But this of which Christ proclaimed is more than a law. It is more than a verse. It is more than a saying. It is an experience. We must allow that freedom to sink into our lives and take control of our heart. Remember Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift. Let the fire be rekindled. Let the embers be stirred. When we stir it up that is when we experience a refreshing. The Holy Spirit once again fills us. When we have the Holy Spirit, there is boldness. Where there is boldness there is no fear. Where there is no fear there is freedom!

Paul talked of freedom to the Corinthians. That is what Paul is saying in *2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* Paul is telling those in Corinth that when the Spirit of the Lord comes, He brings liberty.

That word "liberty" here also means "freedom". God's Spirit brings freedom.

I heard someone share something about this verse some time ago. The person gave another definition of this word – they said "relaxation". When we have peace in our lives we can relax. Some Christians are just too uptight. Others, if they are not uptight they are looking into something to be uptight about. We sometimes need to learn to relax in Christ and trust Him. That is what the word "Shalom" we read of means. It means peace, but more importantly, it means the Peace of God. It means '**may God's peace engulf you as you walk through the day**'. We need to come to the place where we believe those popular and powerful verses of scriptures on freedom that we hear so very often.

- "*Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world*" (**1 John 4:4**)
- "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*". (**Philippians 4:13**)
- "*With God we can have the victory*". (**John 16:33; Ephesians 6:10, 13**)
- "*What is impossible with man is possible with God*" (**Matthew 19:26**)
- "*All things work together for them who love the Lord*" (**Romans 8:28**)

We do not just need to mark or highlight them in our Bibles, or write them down or even quote them every day. We need to go the step further and get them engraved in our heart and actually believe them.

Liberty speaks of freedom, it speaks of peace. It means to have peace in times of trouble. Christ has come to set us free. He has come to give us life and give it more abundantly. Christ died to set us free from sin. Paul tells us that we do not have to be a slave to sin. Christ died to set us free from bondage, bitterness, and unforgiveness. Christ has come and He died to set us free from fear. This is what Paul was telling Timothy in *2 Timothy 2:7. 'For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.'* Then again in *Romans 8:15 "For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear"*. Fear is

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

| | |
|---|--|
| †† 1963 October | Weekly Services introduced. |
| †† 1970 October 18 th | Laying of Corner Stone by the Rt. Rev. Edwin W. Kortz. |

bondage. Fear is controlling, and fear will try to control our actions. That is why Christ felt it is so important to emphasize the fact that He died for our freedom. We do not have to be controlled by sin.

As we know, significant heights are feared by many because they are fearful of slipping or falling. It is not many who actually fall whenever they go to significant heights, but it is many who are fearful of falling when they reach such heights. So, the problem is not really with the falling, but it is the fear of the falling. Fear will make you think and act strangely. It creates panic. Think of trying to teach someone to swim, even with the explanation that, “most people who cannot swim drown because they panic.” Panic can result in some very bad decisions. We do not have to be controlled by our emotions. We do not even have to be controlled by other people’s reactions. We can experience freedom in Christ today.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE BARBADOS!

Prayer

Our Father, we thank You for the opportunity to be free. We thank You for your Word of freedom and we thank You for your Spirit of wisdom. And as we recognise our earthly independence as a sovereign nation under God let us not lose the significance of your freedom on our lives each day. Amen.

WORD SEARCH

‘Games From Back in the Day’

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

THIS MONTH (NOVEMBER) IN BARBADOS’ HISTORY

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 1751 | George Washington visits Barbados , making his only journey outside the American mainland (<i>until December</i>) |
| 1966 | Led by Errol Walton Barrow as Prime Minister, Barbados received its Independence from the United Kingdom. |
| 1969 | Barbados Community College is established by the Government of Barbados |
| 1977 | At the end of the Queen’s Silver Jubilee, the Concorde made its maiden voyage to Barbados , with Queen Elizabeth II experiencing her first supersonic flight to the United Kingdom. |

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Barbadian_history

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>LUDO</u> | <u>COWBOYS</u> | <u>DRAUGHTS</u> |
| <u>HOP-SCOTCH</u> | <u>INDIANS</u> | <u>DARTS</u> |
| <u>DOMINOES</u> | <u>DODGE-BALL</u> | <u>LICK-STICK</u> |
| <u>CHESS</u> | <u>ROUNDERS</u> | <u>CHECKERS</u> |
| <u>MARBLES</u> | <u>JACKS</u> | <u>CARDS</u> |
| <u>HIDE & SEEK</u> | <u>TAG</u> | <u>KITE FLYING</u> |
| <u>ROAD TENNIS</u> | <u>RACES</u> | <u>X&Os</u> |

Which Games Did You Play?

This Month in Moravian History

Paul Eugen Layritz, 1707-1788



Image: *Jesus Blessing the Children*, from title page of Layritz, *Betrachtungen* (1776).

This month marks the birth of Paul Eugen Layritz, father of the Moravian school system, on November 13, 1707 in Wunsiedel, Vogtland. The second youngest of 14 children, Layritz studied theology at the University of Jena, where he experienced a spiritual awakening around 1729. Following in the footsteps of his father, Layritz accepted a position as principal of a boys' school in Neustadt a.d. Aisch, where he served for the next ten years. Although acquainted with the Moravians for more than a decade, Layritz first joined the Church in Herrnhag in 1742, facing criticism and bitter disappointment from his family, colleagues and pupils. Over the next forty years, Layritz restructured and commanded the Moravian school system in Germany, and was ordained a Bishop in 1775. Layritz died in Herrnhut on August 1, 1788.

Although an astute scholar, Layritz was not a prolific writer. **He focused much of his energy instead on the careful administration of Moravian schools.** He did, however, publish a widely successful Latin-German dictionary, which remained in use for many years, along with a treatise concerning Moravian educational principles entitled *Considerations Concerning a Rational and Christian Education of Children* (*Betrachtungen über eine verständige und christliche Erziehung*

der Kinder) in 1776. **This concise volume set forth a practical standard for child-rearing adopted by Moravian settlements worldwide.** The book is divided into five chapters outlining a child's development from conception through adulthood, including recommendations to enhance a child's physical, mental and spiritual growth in each stage. Pregnant females are advised to get plenty of exercise, fresh air, and to avoid stress. The nutritional components of various types of milk are analyzed for nursing mothers. **To foster responsibility children are encouraged to learn household chores and give alms to the poor.** Layritz downplayed the benefits of corporal punishment, advising parents instead to attune themselves to the natural inclinations of their children and mold their behavior with "watchful eyes and sympathetic hearts."

Layritz greatly admired the educational philosophy of the Moravian forefather, Comenius. He agreed with the Comenian balance of intellectual and religious instruction, and also believed in the education of girls, as "they have the same sensibilities [as boys]." Layritz's practical administrative practices sometimes clashed with Zinzendorf's idealistic notions of spiritual education. Zinzendorf hated his own school experience, likening it to intellectual "slavery." Although party to the emotional extravagance that characterized Moravian worship in the late 1740s, Layritz distanced himself in the years that followed. In a letter dated 1751 he wrote: "For my part I truly hope to ensure that the children learn all that they can, and that we don't raise a race of good-for-nothings, which has happened in the past." Throughout his career, **Layritz strove to balance the love of learning with a love of the Saviour in Moravian schools.**

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Sources: Dienerblätter; Marianne Doerfel, "Zur Übernahme der Pädagogik des Comenius durch Paul Eugen Layritz," in *UF 32* (1992) and "Paul Eugen Layritz," in *Lebensbilder aus der Brüdergemeine* (2007); Haller, *Early Moravian Education in Pennsylvania*; Layritz, *Betrachtungen über eine verständige und christliche Erziehung der Kinder*, 1776.

Introducing Prophets and Prophetesses of the Bible “Aaron”

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 “*prophētēs*”, – 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 prophetess then is a woman called of God to the Prophetic office.

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. 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

In the last Lay Academy Programme of the Moravian Church on the topic “**Introduction to the Old Testament**”, participants were given an

appreciation of the truths within the Old Testament and its relevance to the New Testament, and to us today. The Facilitator also shared on prophecy. Participants were told that to ‘prophesy’ was to “speak forth the will and mind of God”, “to declare of that which cannot be known by natural means”. Simply put, it brought out the point that 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.

With these concepts in mind, over some time, we will take a look at the plethora of prophets in the Bible. This month we will consider **AARON – Prophet, High Priest, brother of Moses and Miriam.**

ABOUT THIS PROPHET:

Prophecy about Aaron can be found in *Exodus 4:14-16*. *Exodus 7:1* says: “*And the LORD said unto Moses: See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.*” *Exodus 7:6* says “*And Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded them, so did they.*” Aside from being the brother of Moses, who then is Aaron? What can we learn from his experiences as Prophet?

AARON’S name means “rich,” “fluent,” or “enlightened.”. The following bio-data is found about Aaron:

| | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| Born | : Egypt |
| Died | : 1408 BC |
| Spouse | : Elisheba |
| Children | : Eleazar, Ithamar, Nadab, Abihu |
| Siblings | : Miriam, Moses |
| Parents | : Amram, Jochebed |

Younger than Miriam, Aaron was actually the elder son, and the fourth generation from Levi. Aaron was three years older than his brother Moses, and because Aaron was raised by and in the home of his biological mother and father (unlike Moses who was identified as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter) there would be no challenge to his privileges concerning his lineage as the first-born male. Given the culture of the day, it was therefore naturally expected that Aaron would be leader, and the privilege of inheritance would be his, along with the religious responsibilities

passed down to him because of the connection to the great Levi.

However, Moses was the one chosen by God to lead the people, and Aaron was the one chosen by God to be the spokesman for Moses (*Exodus 4:14*) and the prophet for the proclamation of God’s Word to the people of Israel (because Moses had a weakness in communication and he was a child at the house of Pharaoh with a crime against him there).

In *Exodus 3:1-6* we see that Aaron was committed to the God of his fathers – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – and he understood that God had made a covenant with Abraham which included all the people of Israel.

When you consider the circumstance surrounding the assignment Aaron accepted, it could be considered a risky one (*Exodus 4:10-17; 5:1-13; 6:10-13; and 6:28 to 7:7*). This role of proclaiming the Word of One God in a society where there was belief in many gods – efforts also geared towards the release of the people of Israel from bondage.

As Moses had his strengths and weaknesses, so too Aaron had his strengths and weaknesses. In Aaron’s moments of strength, he was a great support to Moses (*Exodus 17:10-13* – Aaron recognized a need and acted for the good of many and so Aaron, with Hur held up the weakened arms of Moses until Israel secured victory battle in the battle between the children of Israel and the Amalekites). But when he showed his weakness (*Exodus 32* – giving in to the demands of the people, and supervising the making and leading of worship of the golden calf), Aaron acted against what he knew God wanted. But even as that disappointing moment was unfolding, God brought something good out of the bad situation, and used Aaron despite his failings. God demonstrated his grace and compassion, and restored Aaron. However, disobedience brings consequences. Like Moses, Aaron was not allowed to enter the Promised Land.

In the New Testament, Aaron is seen as the imperfect priest when contrasted with the perfect priesthood of Jesus (*Hebrews 5:7,11*).

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?

What can we take away from these records in the Bible? God is angry with us when we disobey and rebel against Him. When God appoints, He expects our support – our allegiance to God demands it. It is really far better to support God’s appointment, than to be up-front or ‘behind the scenes’ in efforts at dis-appointment.

Aaron’s role required:

- ✓ **dedication** to Almighty God – not to Moses, but to Almighty God;
- ✓ **perseverance** in times of testing and trials;
- ✓ **faith**. When God has placed you in a particular role, then whatever you do, do as unto the Lord and not as unto man;
- ✓ **humility** – humility, even though Aaron had gifts (eg: eloquent speech) which the leader he supported did not have. Even where Aaron had gifts superior to Moses’, it did not mean God required Aaron to take over. Aaron’s role was to speak as God directed.
- ✓ an **attitude of obedience to God**.

HOW DO WE MEASURE UP?

Most of us in the body of Christ would be serving in supporting roles. Do we truly accept our supporting roles, and do we understand what it entails, or are we swayed like Aaron and give in to the crowd’s demands, despite knowing it is not what God desires? How are we measuring up – in dedication, in perseverance, in faith, in humility, in our attitude? Are we building the character and demonstrating the qualities required to serve God in our supporting role? The lesson to be learned from the life of Aaron is that it is **better to obey** the will that the Lord has for our lives, rather **than sacrifice**.

SELECTED INDEPENDENCE-RELATED EVENTS 2017

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------|--|
| Nov. 2 nd | The Character of Bridgetown Hucksters Walking Tour |
| Nov. 3 rd | Historical Garrison Night Tour and Tunnel Experience |
| Nov. 4 th | NIFCA Culinary Arts Exhibition |
| Nov. 10 th | NIFCA Literary Arts Balcony Book Fair NIFCA Performing Arts Finals |
| Nov. 11 th | NIFCA Best Bajan Cook Finals |
| Nov. 16 th | NIFCA Literary Arts Gala |
| Nov. 17 th | NIFCA Film Video Screening NIFCA Visual Arts and Photography Exhibition |
| Nov. 19 th | NIFCA Performing Arts Gala |
| Nov. 20 th | NIFCA Culinary Arts Exhibition |
| Nov. 23 rd | UNESCO World Heritage Site Tour and Changing of The Sentry |
| Nov. 30 th | Independence Day Parade |

Extract: www.funbarbados.com/calendar/

Fun Corner

| 'A FAMILIAR GAME' THIS MONTH - THE LETTER "C" DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR BIBLE CHOOSE YOUR OWN FROM THE BIBLE USING "C" | | |
|--|--|--|
| A N I M A L | CAMEL (Genesis 24:16; 24:10 and 30:43) | CAMEL – In the Bible, Camels are frequently used as a symbol of wealth and abundance. The first three appearances of Camels are linked with descriptions of the wealth of the first three patriarchs – Abraham; Isaac, and Jacob. The traditional Christian image of the three magi is that of three camels bearing gifts for the Christ child. |
| P E R S O N | CALEB (Numbers 13-14) | CALEB - One of the spies sent by Moses from Kadesh in southern Palestine to spy out the land of Canaan. Only Caleb and Joshua advised the Hebrews to proceed immediately to take the land. For his faith, Caleb was rewarded with the promise that he and his descendants should possess it. |
| P L A C E | CANA (John 2:1; John 21:2) | CANA – Cana, of Galilee , was the scene of our Lord's earliest miracle. At the marriage feast in Cana, Jesus turned water into wine. Cana was also the home of Nathanael. Nathanael was brought to Jesus by his friend Philip, and he was the first to express belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 1:49). The other three Gospels identify Nathanael as Bartholomew). |
| T H I N G | CHEESE (1 Samuel 17:18; 2 Samuel 17:29; Job 10:10) | CHEESE – Cheese is actually mentioned in the Bible (<i>three times</i>). Cheese is derived from milk. There are hundreds of types of cheese – their style, texture and flavours depend on the origin of the milk, including the animal's diet. |

A LITTLE BIBLE TRIVIA

The Bible (KJV) has **31,102 verses** and **1,189 chapters**. Do you know **the shortest verse?**

(Answer next issue)

DO YOU HAVE A RECIPE YOU WANT TO SHARE?

Conkie Recipe



Ingredients

- 2 cups corn flour
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1 cup grated coconut
- 3/4 lb grated pumpkin
- 1/2 lb grated sweet potato
- 6 oz melted butter or margarine
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 3/4 lb brown sugar
- 4 ozs. raisins
- 1 tsp spice
- 1 tsp almond essence
- 1 tsp grated nutmeg
- 1 tsp salt
- Fresh Banana leaves

Directions/Method

Mix the coconut, pumpkin, sweet potato, sugar, spices, raisins, flour, corn flour, and salt together in a large bowl.

Add the beaten egg, melted butter/margarine, and milk. Mix thoroughly by hand to combine. You should have a thick mixture that drops slowly from a spoon. Add more flour if the mixture is not thick enough; add a bit more milk if it is too thick.

Fresh green Banana leaves are traditionally used to wrap the Conkie mixture. If you have these, strip leaves from stalk with a sharp knife then briefly singe them over an open flame to make them more pliable. Cut the leaves into individual 8" squares.

Spoon 2 to 3 tablespoons of the mixture into the centre of the banana leaf. Fold the leaf around the mixture, taking care not to rip the leaf.

Steam the Conkies on a rack over boiling water in a large saucepan for 1 hour or until they are firm.

Unwrap and enjoy!

Substitutions

- The Banana leaves can be substituted with foil or wax paper.

<http://www.barbados.org/barbados-recipes-conkies.htm>



From the Pastor's Desk

Rev. Delroy Burley

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

"THE PRIEST WHO CAN HELP"

Greetings and once again welcome to 'The Pastor's Desk' where I share God with you. The **Month of November** is significant for us Moravians as we celebrate the **Head-ship of Christ in the Moravian Church, since 1741**. For Barbadians around the world, November is also significant as during this month we commemorate in various ways our independence as a sovereign Nation. For the Christian, we recognize that though we are independent, yet we are dependent on Christ, our Saviour.

As I was reflecting on chapter 4 in the Book of Hebrews, I became a bit concerned about a young man whom I wanted to help grow in Christ. At the moment, his Christian life is on hold, and though he listened patiently to what I shared with him, he seemed unwilling to make any changes or to take seriously what I was saying. I found myself feeling frustrated and uncertain how to proceed. There was much truth I was anxious to impart to him and I longed particularly for his eyes to be opened to the enormous resources for help in times of temptation and pressure that were available to him from the daily presence of Christ in his life. However, he seemed to be bored of hearing and unable to grasp the excitement and vitality of what I sought to portray. My eyes became open to how the writer of Hebrews must have felt as he tried to help his readers grasp the full importance of the high priestly ministry of Jesus.

Hebrews 4:14 begins an extensive discussion of that ministry of Jesus, which will conclude at chapter 7:28. The *'therefore'* which opens the discussion looks back to the previous verse (4:13), where the whole human race is viewed as totally vulnerable before the all-seeing eyes of God. Our writer probably has in mind Adam and Eve, when they suddenly became aware of their nakedness and sought to hide from God in the Garden. But **believers in Jesus, though naked before God, need not hide, for they have an Advocate before the Father - the Son of**

God himself. Thanks to this relationship believers can, in the words of 4:16, *approach the throne of grace with confidence.*

Jesus, as high priest and as our Chief Elder, is both *great* and *has gone through the heavens*. This last phrase denotes his completed work of redemption and transcendent availability. The practical result of that availability is that there is no need for anyone to give up faith under the pressure of peril or persecution, for the help needed to stand is both compassionately offered and helpful. This offer of help from on high is available to any who struggle with the pressures and problems of life on earth. It is also undoubtedly the most widely neglected resource for Christians and non-believers alike. It proposes simply and clearly to meet every situation, but not with human wisdom, but divine; not with merely human strength, but with God's almighty strength! History provides many examples of those who have tried this offer and found it very true. Yet, despite this encouragement from the past and from the present, many believers look first, even only for human help, and if it is not available, succumb quickly to discouragement, defeat, despair, and even choose suicide. These verses are often quoted as part of a Christian's defense provision, but too often forgotten when actual times of trouble arrive. This is why we need to keep the Word of God in our hearts. **Memory verses are a good source of power tools for the Christian.**

The basis for our great high priest's and our Chief Elder's empathy is that He has fully shared our troubles. The writer has already (2:17) reminded his readers that Jesus was "made like his brothers and sisters in every way" and that this was done "through suffering". Now we are told that He *has been tempted in every way, just as we are*. As Adam and Eve, before the fall, could be tempted even in their innocent state, so Jesus could feel, and felt, the force of temptation to the full, praise be to God he remained *without sin*. **He exceeds us in his awareness of the power of temptation.** "Such endurance involves more, not less, than ordinary human suffering" (Bruce 1964:86). Only the sinless can experience the full intensity of temptation, for the sinful yield before the limit of temptation is reached. We may count on his sympathy for our feelings of pressure and constraint to evil, and be assured, as the psalmist says, "he knows how we are formed; he remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14).

Prayer: *Our Lord and Chief Elder, we beg of You to help us understand how truly good You are to us. You are more to us than our earthly journey - after all You are the one who gives us the strength for each day. We are thankful. We beg of You to increase our awareness of the power of temptation and teach us to completely rely on your saving grace that is new every morning so we can grow more like you, Amen.*

Greetings, Information & News : From Home & Abroad

CHRIST, THE CHIEF ELDER: November 13th: This date has been marked as the **Recognition of Christ as the Chief Elder of the Moravian Church (1741)** – it represents the date when the announcement of the Synod on September 16th, 1741 was made throughout the Unity.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PROVINCE

Postponement of the 32nd Provincial Synod

Over the past few weeks we have witnessed firsthand the fury that can be unleashed through nature. Many of the residents in the Caribbean region have been on the receiving end of this fury as we lived through two major Category 5 hurricanes merely weeks apart. While some islands have been hit directly and are now recovering from these disasters, all of us have been impacted one way or the other.

The hurricanes have dealt a major blow to the Virgin Islands Conference of the Moravian Church. All four islands in the Virgin Islands Conference were severely damaged and are seeking to put things in place for the recovery and reconstruction efforts. It is going to take a long time and many resources for the Conference to get back on its feet again.

The PEC consulted with the Superintendents on the way forward with regards to the 32nd 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.

The Book of Order of the Moravian Church, Eastern West Indies Province 2012, paragraph 4.3 which speaks of the Convening of Synod, states the following:

The Provincial Synod shall be convened every three years at a place and time to be arranged by the P.E.C. Notice for the calling shall be given by circulars six months before the date fixed for the meeting. In extraordinary cases or if two-thirds of the conferences in the Province request a synod, the P.E.C. must call a synod.

In addition, paragraph 5.5.3 which speaks of PEC Special Duties, states the following:

To convene the regular Provincial Synod and to summon an extraordinary Provincial Synod under pressing circumstance, when requested to do so by two-thirds of the conferences that make up the Province. In either case, the P.E.C. shall also determine the time and place of meeting.

After much thought and deliberation at its meeting held *via* Skype on October 16th, 20th and 23rd, 2017, the PEC decided given the extraordinary pressing

circumstances, resulting from the hurricanes, that the Synod should be postponed for one (1) year.

The new date for the 32nd 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.

Extract: The Information Newsletter (November 2017 Issue), pg 6.



Let us continue to remember in prayer and support our brothers and sisters in the Virgin Islands Conference, and across the Caribbean.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CONFERENCE

The **Ministers of Music** serving within the Province will be meeting in **Barbados from November 26 to December 1, 2017**. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to continue the work on the music edition of the Caribbean Moravian Praise Hymnal.

As part of these meetings, choir members, musicians and other interested members are invited to meet at **Sharon Moravian Church from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning on Monday, November 27 until Wednesday November 29, 2017**. During these sessions, participants will be invited to sing through portions of the hymnal. Since this activity is part of the on-going editorial process for the music edition, participants will be asked to pay attention to the melodic and harmonic accuracy of the music that has been scored.

Those who will participate are asked to contact the Conference Office to have e-mailed to them, a digital copy of the booklet containing the hymns that will be reviewed. Limited copies of the booklet containing the selected hymns will be available.

Let's play our part in assisting the production of **the musical edition of the Caribbean Moravian Praise Hymnal**.

The Fulnek Moravian Church will host a Thanksgiving **Service in Tribute of the late Bro. Lisle Brathwaite and Bro. William Jones**, both of whom served faithfully at Fulnek and in the wider Barbados Conference. The service will be held on **Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.** Members of the Conference are invited to attend.

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 | 246-428-6069 |
| 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.
- ❖ Upcoming Synod and the Barbados Conference.
- ❖ The Jamaica Province throughout this crisis.

Financial Status

Target: \$ 9,000 monthly

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

Quota Arrears: \$84,264.87

Special Envelopes (November):

HURRICANE RELIEF

If you have not already done so, please make your contribution to assist with our neighbouring islands/homes/families severely impacted by hurricanes.

Please give to God what He truly deserves

| <u>Income for October 2017</u> | \$ |
|---|-----------------|
| Envelopes | 4,969.50 |
| Loose Offering | 1,220.00 |
| Sunday School | 62.50 |
| Harvest | 50.00 |
| Missionary | 700.00 |
| <u>Other Monies raised October 2017</u> | |
| Rental – CPM Hall | 1,600.00 |
| Donations to Gas | 5.88 |
| Sub-Total | 8,607.88 |
| <u>Other funds collected</u> | |
| 'Quota Arrears' to Conference | 558.00 |
| 'Hurricane Relief Fund' to Province | 90.00 |
| "Youth With A Mission" Outreach | 58.00 |
| "Synod Walk-Up" to Conference | 67.00 |
| Synod Sponsored Walk (held Sept. 2017) | 50.00 |
| Sub-Total | 823.00 |
| TOTAL | 9,430.88 |

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 Rev. Roslyn Hamblin**, and the various auxiliary groups and persons who assisted with the **outreach and in-reach efforts of the Church** during the period of my vacation leave.
- ✓ **From the St. Philip Fellowship** to all persons who in any supported this year's **Luncheon** held last month.
- ✓ To persons who participated in the recently concluded **Workshop on Preaching**.

Mark Your Calendar ■ NOVEMBER

- ☐ **Bethlehem's Hours of Worship:**
 - **Sunday School** : Sundays @ 9:00 am
 - **Divine Worship** : Sundays @ 10:00 am
 - **Mid-Day Bible Study** : Wednesdays @ noon
 - **Evening Bible Study**: Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm
 - **Pastor's Office Hours** : Fridays, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (*by appointment*)
- ☐ **Advent to Epiphany Devotional** – please prepare and submit your inputs by **November 23, 2017** for this year's issue (*coming soon*)
- ☐ Assisting with the Worship experience:
 - **The Women's Fellowship** will be assisting with Cleaning and Preparing the Sanctuary.
 - **The Men's Fellowship** will be assisting with Readings and Prayer
- ☐ **Women's Fellowship Meetings** every second Tuesday @ 6:00 pm.
- ☐ **Dance Ministry: Liturgical Dance Classes** on Saturdays @ 3:30 pm. All are invited.
- ☐ **Shut-In Communion** will be administered on Tuesday, November 7th starting from 10:00 am.
- ☐ **Fundraising Committee** meeting on Thursday, November 9th at 6:30 pm.
- ☐ **Building and Environmental Committee** meeting on Thursday, November 16th at 7:30 pm.
- ☐ **Harvest Festival at Bethlehem** on Sunday, November 20th. **Please prepare your produce.**
- ☐ **Elders' Board Meeting** on Tuesday, November 21st at 7:30 pm.
- ☐ **Joint Board Meeting** on Thursday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm.
- ☐ **Flea Market** has been postponed (*u.f.n*).

Reminder

- ☐ **Build a Block** – We invite each member of the congregation to receive a **Build a Block** card and thereby seek to faithfully support the Church Bathroom Project underway to ring-beam.
- ☐ **The Liturgy Book, companion to the Caribbean Moravian Praise Hymnal**, is now available for those persons who ordered and received their copy of the 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.
- ☐ **Annual Reports** - All groups and committees are asked to submit their reports for the 2017 Church Council by **December 31, 2017** via e-mail (bethlehemmoravianchurch@gmail.com) and as a hard copy to the Minister.

Announcements

- ☐ **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.
- ☐ Upcoming **Mission Festivals & Rallies**
 - Fulnec (Rally): November 5th; 4:00 pm
 - Clifton Hill (Festival): November 6th
 - Fulnec (Festival): November 14th
- ☐ **Youth Council Bible Pageant** – “Unlocking the Kingdom” on **Saturday, November 11th at 6:00 pm at Calvary**. Adults: \$10; Children: \$5.
- ☐ **Harvest Festival** at Sharon on November 12th
- ☐ **Hurricane Relief Appeal** remain open to contributions.
- ☐ **Women's Conference in Tobago** over the period November 1 to 6, 2017. Two representatives from Bethlehem attending, 18 representing the Conference.
- ☐ **Unity Mission Conference** to be held in **South Africa** – November 15 to 20, 2017, with **Rev. Cicely Athill-Horsford and Rev. Adrian Smith** among 200 representatives from the worldwide Moravian Church attending.

BIRTHDAYS - NOVEMBER

- 01 – Sis. Cherryann Ince
- 06 – Bro. Ormond McConney
- 07 – Sis. Analacia Yarde
- 09 – Sis. Pamela Holder
- 13 – Sis. Valrie Quintyne
- 17 – Sis. Katrina Reece-Burley
- 18 – Sis. Michelle-Louise Williams
- 20 – Sis. Paula Mohamed
- 20 – Bro. Isaac Greenidge
- 24 – Sis. Joyce Walters
- 24 – Bro. Delroy Burley
- 26 – Bro. Romario Ellis



ANNIVERSARIES - NOVEMBER

- 24 – Rev. Alban and Cynthia St. Hill
- 30 – Barbados' 51st Anniversary of Independence

Upcoming Next Month:

Bethlehem's Joint Board Meeting: Thursday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm

Conference's Annual Christingle featuring **The Moramus Singers of Barbados** on Sunday, December 3rd, 2017 at 5:00 pm at Clifton Hill. Tickets: Adults -\$20.00, Children -\$10 (*at the door*)

Bethlehem's Candle Light Service on Sunday, December 10th at 5:00 pm.

Other Christmas and New Year's Services. More details soon.

INDEPENDENCE QUIZZ TIME

1. *The National Dish of Barbados is Flying Fish, accompanied by Cou-Cou, which is made from cornmeal and which of the following:*
 - a. Yam
 - b. Cassava
 - c. Plantain
 - d. Okra

2. *Sir Conrad Hunte, born in Barbados, represented the West Indies in which sport?*
 - a. Hockey
 - b. Football (Soccer)
 - c. Cricket
 - d. Rugby'

3. *Although Barbados became a British colony, the British were not the first Europeans to visit. Explorers from which country were the first to discover Barbados?*
 - a. Norway
 - b. France
 - c. Spain
 - d. Holland

4. *What kind of bird is on the Barbados Coat of Arms?*
 - a. A Gars Gars Bird
 - b. A Pelican
 - c. A Sparrow
 - d. A Turkey

5. *What is the official name of Barbados?*
 - a. Los Barbados
 - b. Bearded Fig Tree
 - c. All of the above
 - d. None of the above

Answers in next Issue

Extract: "www. Funtrivia.com/play quiz/"

“Supporting the work of Ministry”

“Advance the Kingdom: Use the Keys”