

THE VOICE OF ZION

A monthly communication of the
Zion Moravian Church
Victoria Road,
Basseterre,
St. Kitts.

Hilton J Joseph
Pastor

THE ZION MORAVIAN CHURCH

(ESTABLISHED 1777) 235 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN WITNESS



MAY 2012

Volume 4, Issue 5



Provincial Theme
Pursuing the Blessing

The Thematic Focus
*Presence, Power and
Proclamation*

Foundation Text:
Genesis 32

Conference Theme
*Pursuing the Blessing:
Empowered to do Ministry*

Motto

In Essentials - *Unity*
In Non Essentials - *Liberty*
In All Things - *Charity*

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

REV HILTON J JOSEPH



again tell families that the family who plays, prays and eats together stays together.

More demands are on the family, but there is still value in praying, playing and eating together (even if it's once per week).

How do we stay on the firing line of life, remain focused and remain fresh? The truth be told, direction can be found in the ancient scriptures.

The Bible Study group is currently looking at Chapter 2 of the Book of Titus. In this Book, Paul has some truth for us as we seek to build up our families (Titus 2:1-8 NIV).

It is that time of the year again – “Family Month”. This year, the theme chosen is “Equipping and Re-energizing Families 2012”.

Equipping: Due to the sociological and economical changes that we are faced with on a daily basis, certain coping skills need to be shared.

How do we deal with the changing models of the family that we are being faced with? One only has to turn on the TV to watch daily sitcoms and the new family model is staring back at you. It's no longer the model from “Good Times” with mother, father and children but it's now a model with same-sex couples raising children. When we view shows that are to be educational, e.g. those on the HGTV channel, in a subtle manner, more same-sex couples are being introduced on the shows, looking for homes to buy.

Further, how does family adapt to the economic challenges? Some value pay cheques but demands are increasing.

Re-energizing: How do we find new ways to tell the same story? In other words, how can we

¹ You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. ² Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. ³ Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴ Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. ⁶ Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. ⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Paul, in writing to young Titus who was given the mandate to bring structure to the church at Crete, gave a firm directive: “You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine”.

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**Ministries Within The Church**Leadership

Board of Elders
Board of Stewards

Zion Youth Ministries

Youth Fellowship
Sunday School
Girls' Brigade
ZMC Dancers

Ministry In Music

Zion Junior Choir
Zion Youth Choir
Zion Senior Choir
Zion Gospel Singers
Praise & Worship Team

Women's Fellowship

Dorcas Ministry
Zion Outreach Ministry
Bus Ministry
Bible Study
Health Care Team
New Believers Class
Zion Seniors' Club
Zion Ushers Ministry
Zion Missions' Team
Multimedia Team

Sterling Contribution in the Vineyard of God**Sis Vida Casey***Sis Vida Casey*

Sis Vida Constantia Casey née Bridgewater was born on 29 September 1946 at Thibou Avenue in Basseterre. Her mother Sis Bernice Bridgewater was a Moravian. Consequently, Sis Casey was christened and henceforth substantially raised in the Moravian Church where she has remained as a member throughout all her life. Two of her closest siblings, Bro Hon. Sam Condor and Bro Sydney Bridgewater were also brought up in the Moravian Church where they currently remain as faithful members.

As a young child, she attended the Irish Town Primary School and during her adolescent years she attended what was then known as the Basseterre Senior School. In those days, there was significant spiritual education imparted in the school setting. However, it was as a member of the Moravian Church that she received her immersion in the Christian faith. It all began with attendance at Church and Sunday School, but later advanced to membership of and participation in various bodies within the church which were involved in different types of worship and ministry.

Her early church attendance was at both Zion and *Irish Town*. Lay pastors usually served at Irish Town where the church maintained a school room, while pastors catered to Zion at Victoria Road. However, since the starting times were different, many persons ended up attending both venues on any given Sunday for both corporate worship and Sunday School.

Sis Casey credits the early teachings of the late Sisters Doris Lloyd and Rita Williams with her early grounding in the faith. These were two of

her revered Sunday School mentors. She attended Sunday school up until 2010, being a member of the adult class.

Her confirmation as a member of the church was between the ages of thirteen and fourteen years. At that time, both Rev Peter Gubi Jr and Rt Rev Peter Gubi Sr were officiating pastors in the St. Kitts Conference. She vividly remembers her 'confirmation verse' which consisted of the words of Hymn 507 (*In Full and Glad Surrender*).

It was about that same time that she became a member of the Junior Choir. She was a member of that group for just a few years. She was also a member of the Girl Guides group which was led at the time by such persons as Mrs. Teresa Richardson and Sis Inez Roberts.

As Sis Casey advanced in maturity, she became involved in a number of other dedicated activities within the church. At one stage, she served two terms as a member of the Board of Helpers (Elders) alongside the late Bro Maurice Woods. She also became a member of the Women's Fellowship and served as its President for several years. She recalls that she was recruited just about the time when Sis Ann Esdaille was at the point of 'retiring' from active involvement in the Women's Fellowship.

As a consequence of her leadership of the Women's Fellowship, she also served as President of the Women's Council at the Conference level for a two-year term. Her leadership also involved representing the women of the Conference at several overseas conferences in such places as St. Croix, North Carolina, New York and Trinidad.

During her tenure as a member and leader of the Women's Fellowship, the group was involved in a number of activities. These included undertaking fund-raising activities such as take-away dinners. They also made donations to congregational causes, participated in Bible study sessions and meetings for prayer and song praise, engaged in art and craft experiences and visited the sick and shut-in including the Cardin Home. They were also instrumental in staging exhibitions and leading activities to mark Mother's Day, Easter and other special occasions.

At one stage, Sis Casey also became involved in an activity group known as *The Milli Multitude*



Sterling Contribution in the Vineyard of God (Cont'd)

Sis Vida Casey

which had been initiated by Rev Lillette I George. It was from this group that the present Gospel Singers emerged. As a founding member of the Gospel Singers, Sis Casey remains a current member of that group. She is also a fully integrated member of the Conference Choir.

Sis Casey is always engaging in some form of personal fund-raising venture, utilizing her special talents including her penchant for the culinary arts. To this end she has undertaken a cake, pastry and drinks project in collaboration with Sis Sonia Bridgewater. This has been going for several years.

However, the greater volume of her fund-raising involvement has been under the group of the Women's Fellowship. Their attendance at many conferences was made possible through the proceeds from such activities. She also fondly recalls their efforts at raising funds to assist in the procurement of the new organ for the Church.

Her culinary talents have also been at the centre of her involvement in cooking assignments, both during summer camps for the youth as well as for a meeting of Synod which was held in the Conference. She served alongside such persons as Sisters (Srs) Viola Warner and Helen Tully.

It was during a service at Estridge, following one of the youth camps that Rev Dion Christopher gave an altar call to which she responded. This was the point at which Sis Casey began an even closer walk with God. Soon after this, she enrolled in a special programme for lay witnesses, which was initiated in the Conference. This was known as *Evangelism Explosion*: a Bible-based evangelistic programme of Christian Education complete with classes, on the job training, examination and certification. Sis Casey recalls that Bro Ivyn Sammy Williams, Sis Althea Byron and Bro Claude Belle who had completed the programme the year before were very

instrumental in passing on knowledge to her.

Her exposure to the programme was useful in preparing her to deliver the spoken Word in the form of sermonettes. This was done on certain occasions such as during the Lenten Season week-night services.

Sis Casey's involvement in the Ushers' Ministry began long before the current process was formalized. She recalls that she responded naturally to the need when visitors were at church and provided guidance, including ensuring that they were comfortably seated as well as providing them with hymn books to enable them to participate in the service. She is now an active member of the team, under the leadership of Sis Ellenitta Nathaniel.

Along with Sisters Viola Warner and Charmaine Benjamin, Sis Casey also engaged in regular weekly cleaning of the church. This was a labour of love which they pursued on Fridays and Saturdays for approximately four years.

On 28 May 1975, Sis Casey married Vernon Casey. She recalls that the wedding ceremony (which was presided over by the late Rev Lloyd Kitson) took place at the Methodist Church. This was because the Zion Sanctuary was undergoing repairs at the time. Sis Casey has been blessed with four children: Valdene, Rahmona, Sherman and Shane (now deceased). She also cherishes her three grand children, Shakira, Stephen and Shane.

As a humble and caring motherly figure in her church and community, Sis Casey yearns simply to always be a living witness for God. She proudly declares "I want to see God". Her daily prayer is in keeping with the words of the well known hymn: *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind; Forgive my Foolish Ways*. This is a continuing acknowledgement by her of the need for Grace in her walk with God.

Her counsel to the youth is that they should strive to remain on course in

keeping with the teachings imparted to them at Church and Sunday School. In her constant intercession for them, she prays that they will be strong enough in their faith to say 'no' to negative things. Meanwhile, she is extremely elated to see the youth of Zion actively involved in the life of the Church.

The *Voice of Zion Newsletter* Committee salutes the dedicated and humble service of Sis Vida Casey. May her lifetime of selfless service be seen as an inspiration to all. We trust that God will continue to bless and keep her as she journeys through her life towards her personal goal of seeing her 100th birthday.

Condolences

The Leadership and Membership of the Zion Moravian express condolences to:

Horatio and Carmen Versailles and Family on the passing of *Sis Sylvia Versailles-Browne*.

Sis Sonia Daly-Finley & Family on the death of her father-in-law, *James Norman Finley* who passed in London, England on 07 April and was buried on 17 April 2012.

Sis Linet Matthew and Family on the passing of her adopted mother, *Ms Maisie Somersall*.

Sis Nicole Nolan and Family on the passing of her grandmother, *Ms Bridgette Browne-Nolan (Baby)*.

Bro Ian Walters and Family on the death of his daughter *Andrea Walters (Singing Angie)*.



Be comforted knowing that God can turn your mourning into gladness because He has promised to give you comfort and joy instead of sorrow. (Jeremiah 31:13)



Reflections on Rev Romeo Challenger

by Rev Dr Cortroy Jarvis



Rev Romeo Challenger

The Rev Romeo Challenger was born in the village of Liberta, Antigua on 12 August 1948. He was the fourth of seven children for his parents, Ida and Samuel Challenger. His father predicted that he was going to be a Minister of Religion. The first time this was told to Rev Challenger was the day he left for College in Jamaica. His father did not live to see his prediction fulfilled as he departed this life when Romeo was nine. His mother assumed the responsibility of raising seven children without a father. She did a wonderful job as all of her children are making significant contributions to society.

He grew up in the Gracehill Moravian Church in Liberta and played many roles in the Church over the years. He was Sunday School Teacher, Delegate to Island Conference, Treasurer, Superintendent of the Sunday school and Leader of the Youth Group.

He attended the Gracehill/Liberta Primary School and All Saints Secondary School. He also attended the United Theological College of the West Indies (UWTCI) in Jamaica and Codrington College/University of the West Indies, graduating with a Diploma in Ministry and

a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Theology. At the time of his death he was pursuing a Master's Degree in Pastoral Counselling.

In his work experience, Rev Challenger taught for four years at the Goodwill Academy specializing in Geography. Having been called to the Ministry, he attended the UTCWI in Jamaica from 1974 to 1978.

He was ordained a Pastor on 23ⁿ July 1978 at the Gracehill Moravian Church by Bishop John E Knight. In July 1989 he was consecrated a Presbyter by Bishop Selvin U Hastings.

From 1978 to 2011, Rev Challenger worked tirelessly to share the Gospel wherever he went. He was a very dedicated and committed Pastor. He has touched the lives of hundreds of persons throughout the Caribbean over the 34 years he served as an Ordained Pastor.

Rev Challenger worked in St. Kitts from 1978-1981; in Tobago from 1981-1985; in Barbados from 1986-1993; in Antigua for the past 19 years from 1993-2012.

He was Superintendent of the Moravian Church in Antigua from 1996-2003 and during that time he served as the President of the Antigua Christian Council for two terms. At the time of his passing he was Chaplain of the Senate of Antigua and Barbuda and a Member of the Police Service Commission, two institutions where he performed with distinction. For many years he was the Supervisor of CXC Examinations at the Antigua Girls High School and then at the Antigua State College for the CAPE Examinations. He

always saw his involvement as his civic responsibility to give back to his country; the country that nurtured and moulded him. He was an avid Sportsman and actually played competitive cricket and volleyball. In cricket, he represented his village Liberta, St. Paul's Parish, the UTCWI as an opening batsman with much success. He gave leadership to all those teams. He tried to rub it in my face from time to time that his highest score of ninety-seven (97) was against Swetes. In those days, Swetes and Liberta had some fierce competition between themselves in cricket.

He has touched many lives and has always given thanks to God for allowing him to have served in so many communities and capacities. God surrounded him with a host of able Leaders, friends, young and old, Lay and Ordained, who never ceased to lift him up in prayer every day.

Rev Romeo Challenger gave much credit to his mother Ida Challenger for his early development. His sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws and teachers at the Liberta Primary School and All Saints Secondary School have contributed to the affirmation of God's call upon his life. The Gracehill Moravian Church provided the atmosphere for his faith development and spiritual growth.

He would be sorely missed by his partner in Ministry and wife Deborah, his daughter Shanna and his son Christopher.

The thirty-four (34) years of Ministry presented many challenges for Rev Challenger, but through it all, God's love

provided the sustaining power. He was for me a wonderful Pastor and friend. Indeed, he was a man of God, who sought to do his best with the gifts that God blessed him with. We did not always agree on everything, but the friendship never wavered.

He served well and would be missed by the Community at large, but more especially the Moravian Community. We will all miss him, especially his laughter and camaraderie and his uprightness.

We have shared a strong bond of friendship from 1983, when I worked in Trinidad and he worked in Tobago. We cooked lunch and went to see cricket together at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad. When he was called to Barbados, I would journey to Barbados from Tobago for us to go to watch cricket at the Kensington Oval in Barbados. I am the Godfather of his son Christopher, whom I also baptised in Trinidad. Romeo was my Best Man in 1985 when I got married and on 8 September 1993 when he got married in Grenada to his wife Deborah, I journeyed to Grenada to share in the ceremony.

Rev Challenger passed into the nearer presence of God on Saturday 10 March 2012 at the Mount St. John Medical Centre after a period of illness. He was buried at the Gracehill Moravian Church Cemetery in Liberta, the place where he had fond memories having attended the Gracehill Moravian School next door.

May our Brother, Pastor, Colleague and Friend rest in peace eternal.



PEC Reports

Moravian Music Sunday

Today, 06 May 2012 we celebrate the rich musical heritage God has given to the Moravian Church, a heritage that stems from the Ancient Unity in Bohemia and Moravia in the 15th Century, expanded in the 18th Century in Germany, and continues to thrive in the worldwide Moravian Church today. Music can be a wonderful means of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ, speaking to the heart in ways that words alone cannot. When we sing together or play instruments, we share in the song of the church triumphant in heaven, those saints who have gone before us and sing their praises to God and to Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Johannes Herbst, who lived from 1735 to 1812, was a faithful servant of God, a minister, teacher, and school administrator, as well as a musician. He was an organist and a composer, and he copied the pieces of many other composers for his own private music library. He also wrote some 200 musical compositions of his own, all for use in worship services. Brother Herbst was born in Germany, and joined the Moravian Church at age 13. He came to America at the age of 50, and served in Lancaster and Lititz, Pennsylvania, for twenty-five years before he was elected a bishop and called to move to Salem, North Carolina – yes, at the age of 76! He and Sister Herbst obeyed this call, but he only lived to serve seven months in Salem, where he died and was buried.

God has given to us in the Moravian Church a heart for music, and special gifts in composing music, writing words, and singing and playing from that 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, which can draw us closer to one another and to our God. Through music, may we learn to love one another more fully, and in so doing, to love

our Saviour more deeply. Thanks be to God!

Congratulations

The Rev Cherice Job-Lewis and Fabian Lewis, on the birth of their second child. **NIKAYLA JOANNE NOA LEWIS** was born at 9:59 am on Friday 02 March 2012 in Trinidad. Nikayla at birth weighed 61bs 5ozs. Both baby and mother are healthy and doing well.

Rev Devon Mannix and Sis Stacey Mannix are celebrating the birth of their second child and daughter, **SHAUNEA DENECA SHADDEH MANNIX**. She was born on Thursday 5 April 2012 at 7:46 pm. She was 8lbs 4.5ozs at birth. Both mother and daughter are out of hospital and doing fine.

The EWIP offers its congratulations and best wishes to Bro and Sis Lewis and Bro and Sis Mannix. Let us hold them up in prayer at this time.

The Rev Nasel Ephraim completed a “Master of Science Degree in Leadership” from Walden University in the USA. We pray God’s richest blessings upon her.

Moravian Multi-purpose Complex

The Moravian Multi-purpose Complex is a physical facility in Antigua comprised of a conference centre and apartments owned by the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province that offers space for conferences, meetings, seminars, weddings, banquets and dinners, etc. The facility is only ten minutes away from the stores, shops and banks of St. John’s. Antigua’s international airport is also just ten minutes away. The balcony provides a refreshing view of undulating hills and valleys.

The conference centre has seating capacity of two hundred (200) persons. It is situated on a hill overlooking the picturesque outskirts of the city of St. John’s, Antigua.

Included in this multi-purpose complex are eight large apartments which are available for rent. Each room is self-contained with kitchenette. The rooms are air conditioned with available internet and cable TV. All utilities are included with the exception of telephone.

For more information contact:

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30th Provincial Synod

The 30th Provincial Synod convenes in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands on 13 July 2012 and will conclude on 19 July 2012.



Diabetes

- Diabetes cannot be cured; it can be controlled: Take your treatment as ordered by the doctor.
- High blood sugar and high blood pressure cannot be passed on from one partner to another: it is not contagious.
- Water helps to lower the blood pressure and blood sugar: Drink at least eight (8) glasses per day.



Motherhood (A Mother's Day Meditation)

by Sis Carmen Rawlins

When I was asked to write something for Mother's Day, I wondered what I could say that has not been said before. I can only repeat some things and add some new advice which I hope will be useful for Mothers.

A right thinking Mother wants to spend time with her children, to talk to them and to be close to them always. If we don't love our children unconditionally, we can be sure they may not want to be around us later in life.

Mothers are usually the ones who motivate their children, who train them, and show them how to live their lives. However, when you are pushing them to do their best (which you should), make sure they know you love them no matter what. Do not compare your child to others. This is bound to destroy their self-esteem and confidence. Remember, every child is gifted in some way – the Lord has given us all gifts. Find out where their strength lies and encourage them. They will not all be Doctors and Lawyers. The important thing is that they try their best. Pay attention to what they do.

We have all seen children behaving in ways in recent times that shock us, but as I always say, they come out of somebody's house. I agree that sometimes parents have no idea how their children behave when they are not around, but Mothers do your best so that they can say "No" in certain situations. Teach them to respect themselves and others. There is no such thing as 'old-fashioned' when it comes to morals.

Many times I hear, "I didn't have much when I was growing up so I am giving my children everything." Therein lies the problem. We give our children "stuff" for the physical but neglect the inside. What about the spiritual? Life is not about wearing the latest clothes or having the latest gadgets. It is about the quality of life – **Proverbs 15:16** "Better is little with the

fear of the Lord, than great treasure and trouble therewith." Of course Mothers want their children to have nice things, but don't go overboard especially if you can't afford it. There is no point having your children well "decked out" and they have no education, no scruples, and no love of God - a total lack of a sound foundation. The prodigal son had a firm foundation and because of it, when he went astray, he was able to come to his senses and return home.

The *Book of Proverbs* is wonderful for its instructions on living and gives advice about children. Here are some:

Proverbs 3:12 "For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father/mother the son/daughter in whom he/she delighteth."

Proverbs 4:1 "Hear you children, the instruction of a father/mother and attend to know understanding."

Proverbs 6:20 "My son/daughter, keep thy father's commandment and forsake not the law of thy mother."

Proverbs 19:18 "Chasten thy son/daughter while there is hope and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

Proverbs 20:11 "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right."

Proverbs 29:17 "Correct thy son/daughter, and he/she shall give thee rest, yea, he/she shall give delight unto thy soul." And the most popular one;

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he/she should go; and when he/she is old he/she will not depart from it."

You will notice that I have added father/**mother**, he/**she**, son/**daughter**.

How many Mothers today have grief? Some have lost children as a result of crime and some are grieving because of wayward children. Mothers, make sure

you do your part. Tell your children there is a price to be paid for every bad decision. Your children are accountable to you and you are accountable to God for them. Start early - make sure you go to Church with your children, don't just send them, you set the example. If you see your child is willing to serve God, encourage him/her. Get into God's Word and help each other along. Their example may change your life. Try and save yourself and your children with God's help. We are living in perilous times where children are exposed to everything. Mothers, go before God daily, because He says "Come."

Here is some advice from Dr Charles Stanley who is a sound biblical teacher:

- **Teach your children biblical principles. Teach them the truth and they will recognize lies.**
- **Children must see you consistently live out your faith or they will think you are a hypocrite. Children often follow in their parents' footsteps.**
- **Keep teaching, disciplining and be an example of trust and obedience. When your family faces hard times, use this as an opportunity to demonstrate faith by praying together. It's through difficulties that children learn how to live out Christianity.**
- **Get involved in your children's daily lives by doing the things you want them to do e.g. going to Church.**
- **Encouragement is more effective than condemnation.**
- **Children need to hear you pray for them, call their names before God, and make specific requests for them. Nothing you do for them is more powerful than prayer. Pray with them.**



In Celebration of the Birthdays of our Senior Members



Sis Margaret Seaman was born on 28 March 1920 and is in her 92nd year of life. She was married and had one child; both her husband and child are deceased. Sis Seaman raised her niece Sis Patsy Matthew and a host of nephews and nieces. Her father was an estate overseer and so she lived

wherever he worked at the time. Sis Seaman has always been a Moravian, but resided in Bermuda for over 20 plus years. When Sis Seaman was asked how she was feeling, this was her response, "To be honest, I still feel very good, except for the failing sight, memory loss and painful knees, which affect my moving around. I never thought I would have made it to see 92. God is still very good to me, He is my Father. I miss reading my Bible."

Sis Seaman, the Leadership and members of the Zion Congregation wish you a Happy Belated Birthday and pray God's blessings on you.



Sis Doris Powell was born on the 21 March 1922 and recently celebrated her 90th Birthday. Sis Powell has lived all of her life in Basseterre. She has always been a member of the Zion Moravian Church and loves her church with all her heart; this is due to her loving relationship with Her Lord and

Saviour Jesus Christ. Sis Powell is blessed with five children: Eulalie, Marcell, Emelda, Stanley and Lauston. Her loving daughter Eulalie spoke on behalf of her Mum, saying "she is feeling quite good, not sick, always has God in her heart. My mother is a very spiritual and caring woman and continues to pray daily for the Church."

Sis Powell, the Zion Congregation extends warmest belated birthday greetings to you and pray that God will continue to sustain you.



Sis Mary Bowry was born on 08 May 1925 and will be celebrating her 87th birthday on Tuesday 08 May. Sis Bowry is originally from Phillips' but came to Basseterre at a young age.

She has five children (alive) - Ira, Katy, Desmond, Andrea and Donald.

Sis Bowry, the Zion Congregations wishes you Happy Birthday greetings in advance and prays God's blessings over you.



Sis Doris Taylor was born on 16 April 1935 in Basseterre where she has lived all her life. She was married and had eight children, seven of whom are alive; Maureen, Janice, Patrice, Elvis, Beverly, Jasmin and Bernaurd. Sis Doris has always been a member of Zion and was

received when she was 12 and confirmed at 13. She has been a member of the Senior Choir for 30 plus years. In this her 77th year, Sis Doris says "I consider myself blessed, privileged to see my children, grand-children and great-grandchildren. It is God's Grace and Mercy that is keeping me."

Sis Taylor, the Zion Congregation wishes you God's blessings as you celebrate the gift of life and pray that you will live to see many more birthdays.



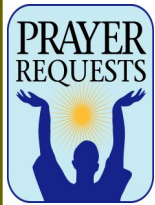
Bro Vernon Connor was born on 08 May 1920 and will celebrate his 92nd birthday on Tuesday 08 May. Bro Connor, who is originally from Anguilla, came to St. Kitts at the age of 27 and has lived in Basseterre since. He was originally a Methodist member, but later became a

member of the Moravian Church after marriage in 1954. Bro Connor has six children: Leslie, Joycelyn, Asheil, Rudolph, Errol and Steadroy. He raised Bro Hilton Clarke, his stepson. Bro Connor says "I am feeling good enough, however the arthritis affects me. I thank the Lord for keeping me up as I am able to move around, I get up early and help out where I can."

Bro Connor, the Zion Congregation extends advanced birthday greetings to you as you celebrate your 92nd year of life. Be blessed and covered!



Special Prayer Requests



Whether your need is small or great, you are welcome to use God's direct 24-hour hotline—prayer! His promise is, "Call to me and I will answer you." (Jeremiah 33:3) **This month, let us remember in prayer** the following persons listed below and be reminded that "you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." (Matthew 21:22)

Sisters Doris Adams, Telca Francis, Andrea Bowry, Vernis Byron, Carmen Rawlins, Tryphena James, Dorette Rawlins, Marcella Byron, Bro Cecil Galloway (USVI), Bro Withley Williams, Sis Laverne Huggins, Sis Ercille Imelda Christmas Sis Gloria James and Sis Veronica Stevens (USA), Bro Tonito Lee (UK), Bro St. Clair Byron and Bro Kirsten Joseph.

Franklyn Dorsette, Asheil Connor, Mario Hamm, Evanson Mitcham, Randy Taylor, Glenville Phillip, Glenroy Smithen, Wayne Matthew, Bernell White, Alpha Duporte, Christian Bedford, Travis Duporte, Chase Hamilton, Randy Browne, Adrian Patrick, Phillip Jones, Lennox Gumbs and Gibson Blake.

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Please remember in prayer our Zion Shut-Ins. Their names are as follows:



Sisters Anita Chumney, Mary Bowry, Margaret Seaman, Winifred Phipps, Ismay Archibald, Ruby Williams, Brenda Manners, Mavis Deosaw and Abdelita Glasford (Barbados). **Brothers** Vernon Connor, James Phipps and Wilfred Mitchum.

For Your Calendar

Moravian Music Sunday is today **Sunday 06 May 2012** throughout the East West Indies Province. Throughout the Conference we will be observing the Sunday with a **Singstunde**, which dates back to early life in Herrnhut where on one evening, hymns were sung for one hour. During this morning's worship experience, we are having a Singstunde first, after which the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served. The title of the Singstunde is '*The Good Shepherd*'.

Shut-in Communion will be held on **Tuesday 08** and **Friday 11 May 2012**, commencing at 9:00 am daily.

A special offering for the **Zion Bus Ministry** will be taken on **Sunday 20 May 2012** during the morning's worship. Please give generously to this vital church ministry.

Family Month commences on **Sunday 13 May 2012 (Mother's Day)** and will conclude on **Sunday 24 June 2012**. The theme is "Equipping and Re-energizing Families 2012". The schedule of activities is as follows:

- 13 May ~ Mother's Day Celebration
- 20 May ~ Health Sunday (Health Discussion ~ *Know Your Body*)
- 27 May ~ (to be determined)
- 03 June ~ Family at Worship Sunday
- 10 June ~ Cradle Roll Sunday
- 16 June ~ Luncheon ~ *Zion Men Can Cook*
- 17 June ~ Father's Day Celebration

Celebration Corner



May Birthday Celebrants

1st - Sis Jillian Musgrave-Archibald, 4th - Bro James Thompson, 5th - Bro. Oliver Glasford (87), 6th - Sis Marilyn Claxton, 7th - Lanelle Sargeant (USA), 8th - Sis Mary Bowry (87), 9th - Bro Vernon Connor (92), 10th - Bro Carl Greaux, Bro Wilmoth Roberts, Sis Saskya Archibald, 11th - Bro Jon-Lewin Watson, Sis Sharaine Mc Sheen, 12th - Sis Sylvia Benjamin, Sis Tamara (Tammy) Liburd, Sister Donna DeSilva, Sis Sylvia Benjamin, 15th - Sis Kilene Belgrove,-Richardson, Sis Domina Christmas-Brisport, 16th - Sis Xianise Comrie, 20th - Sis Christel Joseph, 21st - Sis Sylvia Samuel (78), Bro Shevaun Williams and Bro Le Quan DeSuza, 22nd - Bro Johneal Harvey, Sis Ismay Archibald (85), 25th - Bro Malcolm Sargeant (USA), 27th - Bro Mervin Phillip, 29th - Sis Amalyn Okyere Sargeant (USA), Sis Darcel Warner.



May Wedding Anniversary Celebrants

Bro Michael & Sis Gail James 09 May

May 2012

- 24 June ~ Ministry Fair/ Meet & Greet Friendship Sunday

Check your weekly Bulletins for additional information.

The Moravians will be responsible for ministering at the **Soup Kitchen** from **28 May to 01 June 2012**. Members are asked to note and assist wherever possible.

The **Zion Youth Ministries/Youth Fest 2012 Committee** presents **Pasta Fiesta** at the Shoreline on **Saturday 26 May 2012** from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Contribution: \$20.00

Our **Missionary Programme** will be launched on **Sunday 3 June 2012**, and we will start our monetary collections on that day. **Missionary Festivals** will be celebrated in all congregations on **Sunday 30 September 2012**. Stay tuned for more details.

The **Moravian Cuisine** and **Breakfast** continue every **Friday** (11:30 am - 1:30 pm) and **Saturday** (5:00 am - 10:00 am), respectively. From these efforts for 2012, we have paid over **\$10,000.00** towards reducing our arrears of quota.

The **Keys Moravian Fellowship** submitted a **proposal** for the acceptance of the Fellowship to be recognized as a **Congregation**. This was accepted by **Island Conference** and the proposal has been forwarded for action at the 30th Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church, EWIP to be held in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands from 13 to 19 July 2012.



From the Pastor's Desk (Cont'd)

It suggests that our morals and values must be shaped by the commands of Jesus. They must promote the kind of living that reflects right teaching (www.blueletterbible.org). This quickly prompts me to mention a few of our teachings as outlined in our Brotherly Agreement which I submit for our reflection as we give attention to our theme "Equipping and Re-energizing Families 2012".

- The Triune God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the only source of our life and salvation; and these Scriptures are the sole standard of the doctrine and faith of the Unitas Fratrum and therefore shape our life.
- The Bible shall be our constant study: we shall read it with prayer for the influence and teaching of the Holy Spirit.
- We will faithfully attend the service in the House of God and any special services that may be held in connection with our Church. We will be diligent in private prayer and will practise and encourage family worship.
- Realizing that we have been called into

fellowship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and being desirous that we shall be recognized as His followers, we shall conscientiously abstain from all amusements which would be inconsistent with the Christian life. We will avoid gambling of every kind.

- Knowing that fornication, drunkenness and all other sins of the flesh are condemned in the Word of God, we will determine by His grace to live pure and morally upright lives.
- We will avoid envy, malice, revenge, strife, quarrelling and evil speaking. We will seek to be truthful and endeavour to live in the spirit of peace and good will to others, remembering that lying, profane language, such as swearing, abuse, unclean talk and all other sins of the tongue are contrary to the Spirit of Christ.
- We acknowledge that it is our duty to obey the laws of the land in which we live, and we will endeavour to promote good citizenship.
- We will endeavour to settle our differences with others in a Christian

manner and only seek the aid of the courts of the law as a last resort and with the sanction of our ministers.

- By our industry, sobriety and thrift, we will endeavour to erect proper houses and maintain good homes.
- As parents and guardians we will bring up our children in a Christian manner and endeavour to secure for them the advantages of good education.
- We believe it to be our duty as Christians to care for our aged parents and helpless members of our families; and at the same time to exercise public charity as it may be within our power to bestow.
- As stewards of the gifts of God, we will support the spread of the Gospel at home and abroad by means of our tithes and freewill offerings.

The family that prays, plays and eats together stays together. Let us do our part to keep those values alive.

Yours in Pastoral Love
~ *Hilton and Sharon Joseph*

College Prayer Watch



Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him (James 1:12 (NIV)). Studying abroad and being away from family and loved ones is a stressful time for many students. Hence, this is why the Zion Community is asking members of the Congregation to bear up in prayer our student members studying overseas. Their names are as follows: -

USA
Sis Shanelle Sargeant
Sis Lanelle Sargeant
Bro Withley Williams
Bro Zaavan Hobson
Bro Dujon DeSuza
Sis Glenice Pitt-Williams
Sis Vicky Liburd
Sis Tonya Watts

BARBADOS
Sis Asha DeSuza

UNITED KINGDOM
Bro Kareem Glasford

JAMAICA
Bro Moise Jean
Sis Yvanne Jean

CANADA
Bro Alester Thomas

TAIWAN
Bro Lindbergh Belle

CURACAO
Sis Vekisha Hook

ST THOMAS USVI
Sis Shakira Casey-Pitt
Sis Amanda Bridgewater





Youth Connection

The Zion Moravian Youth Choir



Zion Youth Choir under the directorship of Sis Tryphena Reid-James

The Zion Moravian Youth Choir is a twenty-eight (28) member dynamic and vibrant group, with ages ranging from thirteen (13) to twenty-one (21) years. The group participates in almost all Youth Sunday Morning Services and other Church activities including Harvest Cantatas, Annual Sunday School Programmes and Candlelight Services. These young people have offered themselves as vessels through which the Word of God can be ministered through song. Our Mission, under the direct leadership of the Holy Spirit, is to convince others of God's saving grace and His keeping power. Singing is a tool that affects members individually and collectively, and such is expressed by some members.

The Role of the Choir within the Life of the Church

Choir members, as other church musicians and singers, offer their God-given talents to the faith. Why? For most, it is a part of their stewardship, i.e., the giving of their "time and talents." Others view it as an enjoyable hobby or leisure. Yet, for others, it is seen as somewhat of a social outlet. In whatever way individuals may perceive the affiliation between the choir and the church, the undeniable fact is that all choirs, including the *Zion Moravian Church Youth Choir*, have two main roles when it pertains to the life of the church.

The Musical Role - the Zion Moravian Church Youth Choir strives to be as harmoniously melodic as possible, as we, and the congregation alike, seek to develop a spiritual connection with God through 'worship-in-song'.

The Outreach Role - Choir members offer a significant amount of their time and talents to the Church and thus, they can serve as examples to others. The youth choir members' role does not simply end on Youth Sunday; rather, they are presented with various opportunities to persuade others to participate in the Church's music ministry.

The *Zion Moravian Church Youth Choir* provides indispensable leadership through 'worship-in-song'. Nonetheless, this can only continue if the congregation of the Zion Moravian Church promote us on our journey to spiritual enlightenment. A choir that is enthusiastic, understands its role and approaches its task with a sense of reverence will in turn, lead others to a profound conviction that through musical worship, everyone can encounter God.

~ *Bro Christian Nathaniel*

My Role as a Choir Member

As a choir member, my role is foremost to praise God with my gift of singing and to lead the Congregation in worship. I must take the time to be spiritually focused before beginning a worship service, must always be on time and ready to sing when the service begins. It is very important that I concentrate on the worship service, actively participating by standing, reverencing, and praying whenever appropriate. I try to understand the meaning of the hymns/songs and their significance in the service. It is also my desire to search for spiritual meaning in everything I sing, remembering that singing is not simply a performance, but an act of worship. In other words "Singing is believing." I am expected to participate in the sacramental life of the church, such as frequently receiving communion. I intend to ensure that I refrain from creating distractions, which separate myself and others from the worship experience (e.g. playing around, passing notes, talking and texting in the church).

I recognize that a choir is not a group of individuals wearing the same robe, but rather a unit, a team, each supporting the other. Being punctual for rehearsals and all church services/activities assists not only in my church, but it will improve my attitude in other areas of my life. My outreach role as a choir member is to encourage others to join the choir, be supportive of those in the process of joining the choir making them feel welcomed and comfortable, be a "mentor" to newcomers, and generous with help and support.

~ *Bro Omandi Byron*

How Does Being A Member of the Youth Choir Contribute to My Spiritual Growth?

In youth choir, there is the constant pressure to prepare songs for worship services. The rehearsal time is so short and much has to be learned. Important details such as correct notes, rhythm and dynamics will always be in the foreground of the rehearsal, but does the youth choir contribute to my spiritual growth? Certainly! The youth choir contributes to my spiritual development, in that, the songs which the Director chooses always communicate a message which is easy to understand. Before we perform, the Choir members discuss each song and relate it to our everyday lives. These songs often motivate me and encourage me to place my faith in Jesus as He is my Healer and

Continued on Page 11



Youth Connection (Cont'd)

Provider. The Youth Choir inspires me to feed on God's Word when trials occur. Children do not instantly become full-grown physically, likewise spiritually, I do not expect maturity overnight. I thank God for using the Youth Choir as a means of helping me grow spiritually. **Philippians 1:6** states "Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until Jesus Christ".

~ *Sis Akila Moore*

Would You Encourage Other Young Persons to Join A Youth Choir?

Joining the Zion Moravian Youth Choir was one of the best decisions I ever made. I would definitely encourage any young person to join a choir. In a choir, one gets to grow as a passionate worshipper by growing spiritually and artistically. Also one can provide God-honouring worship for Sunday mornings and beyond, and lead fellow believers in worship and point seekers in the direction of the One, True, Living God. So why join a choir?

Blessed to bless: I can say it is a tremendous feeling singing in front of the congregation and seeing others being blessed through the song being sung.

Social Benefits: As with a club or society, membership will not only enlarge your circle of friends, but also your social life. In a choir one gets to express his/her thoughts and feelings with others who have the same goal of magnifying the Lord Jesus Christ.

Education: There is a wealth of music to discover and being part of a choir is one way of finding some of the hidden gems of the choral repertoire. If you're new to music and singing, it will also encourage you to learn basic singing techniques and music theory.

Respect: One learns to respect oneself, respect the fellow youth choir members and respect the Choir Director. Being in a choir really brings out the importance of teamwork.

~ *Sis Avicia Sweeney*

Conclusion

We thank God for these young people who have dedicated their time, talents and testimonies in helping to build His Kingdom. We heartily appreciate the support of the Pastor and Leadership of the Church, the congregation, advisors and especially parents. The Choir requests your continued prayers as we journey on this Mission for God.

~ *Contributed by the Director and
Members of the Zion Moravian Youth Choir*

Instrument of Peace

O Blessed Day of Motherhood

Proverbs 31:30 -- A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Do you know what Sidney Poitier (actor and writer) once said about his mother?

He said: "She communicated very eloquently in the way that she cared for me, the way her spirit hovers over me to this day, her presence always around me, guiding me in ways I'm still trying to understand." Yes, mothers have some very special, wonderful and caring qualities.

As we celebrate this special day on Sunday 13 May 2012, the Voice of Zion Newsletter Committee wishes to express **Mother's Day Blessings** to all mothers. May God continue to encircle you with His love and wisdom as you face the daily challenges of Motherhood. The following hymn captures our tribute to all mothers.

O Blessed Day of Motherhood!

O blessed day of Motherhood!

We lift our hearts in praise

To thank the Source of every good

Thy joy crowns all our days

O God, our Father, bless this day

Enrich its golden store

Of blessed mother love, and may Thy children Thee adore

O gracious day of Motherhood!

Our faith, by God increased

Hath each alluring foe withstood

Our souls He hath released

O God, our Father, bless this day

Enrich its golden store

Of gracious mother love, and may Thy children Thee adore

O precious day of Motherhood!

Teach us in Christ to find

The greater gifts of brotherhood

Bring peace to all mankind

O God, our Father, bless this day

Enrich its golden store

Of precious mother love, and may Thy children Thee adore

O wondrous day of Motherhood!

Thy love to all abound

Beside the cross once Mary stood

Again let love be crowned

O God, our Father, bless this day

Enrich its golden store

Of wondrous mother love, and may Thy children Thee adore

*Ernest F Mc Gregor 1879-1946
and Arthur Depew 1869-1940
(CMD Tune)*



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The Voice of Zion...
Empowered to do Ministry

Happy Mother's Day in
advance!

Motherhood (A Mother's Day Meditation) Cont'd



If you want to pass your faith on to the next generation, you must set aside time to read the Bible as a family and talk about spiritual truths.

We are not perfect and will make mistakes, but I firmly believe you usually get out what you put in. Don't give up, you are not alone. The Father sends the Holy Spirit to enable, strengthen and encourage believers.

~ Sis Carmen Rawlins

Mothers, if you don't know your Bible enough to teach your children, it is important that you go to Church with them, and if you are willing to grow in God's Word, attend Bible studies. Make sure they attend Sunday School - most of us older Mothers and Fathers have fond memories of our Sunday School days. Encourage them to join Church groups such as the Junior Choir, Youth Choir, Boy's and Girl's Brigade. In days gone by you were not encouraged, there was no choice, you had to join and it turned out to be great fun.

As we celebrate another Mother's Day, I encourage you to give "Mothering" all you've got.

NOTICE: The Zion Moravian Church will be hosting a **Basic Counselling Training Seminar** for interested persons. The seminar will held from 04 to 08 June 2012 and the facilitator will be the **Rev Neilson Waithe** of the **Network Counselling Centre** in Barbados. Registration fee is EC 150.00 (Moravians) and EC\$200.00 (non-Moravians).

Registration forms will be available shortly. The venue and additional information will be announced in subsequent Sunday Bulletins.

Moravian Music Sunday Singstunde & The Sacrament of Holy Communion
~ Sunday 6th May 2012 ~

Worship Leader and Celebrant: Rev Hilton J Joseph

ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to Worship

Introit
Song: *You are My All in All*

Welcome and Celebration Time

Singstunde ~ The Rationale: *What is a Singstunde?*

My Good Shepherd

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23
Special Reading
Hymn # 152: *The King of Love*
Hymn# 533: *Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice*
Hymn: *Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep*

The Good Shepherd Leads

Special Reading
Scripture Reading: St John 10:11 ~ 17
Hymn # 201: *Saviour Like A Shepherd Lead Us*
Hymn: *Walk on Ahead Good Shepherd*
Hymn # 248: *All The Way My Saviour Leads Me*

Scripture Reading: St John 10:1 ~ 6
Senior Choir Item of Praise : *My Sheep Know My Voice*

The Good Shepherd Cares

Special Reading
Scripture Reading: St Luke 15: 1 ~ 6
Hymn # 184: *There Were Ninety and Nine*

Worship in Tithes and Offering

Preparation for Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation
Prayer
Sacred Song: *In Shady Green Pastures*
1st Eucharistic Prayer
Distribution of Bread: *He Leadeth Me*
2nd Eucharistic Prayer
Distribution of Wine ... Hymn # 525 ~ *My Shepherd is the Lamb*
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Covenant Hymn #142 *The Lord's My Shepherd (He Lives)*
The Blessing