

MORAVIAN MOMENTS #112....

Threats to the Survival of the Moravian Church-- Part Three

The Church that forgets its mission, is a Church that will become obsolete and of no effect. No matter how financially well off the Moravian Church is, if it fails to accept and act upon its social responsibility in the communities where it is planted, it will become irrelevant and of no effect. The urgent sense of Mission then, needs to be implanted and cemented into the Psyche of every member of our Church.

There are several other factors that can threaten the survival of the Moravian Church. **The rejection of the structure of the Moravian Church by some of its members, is one of these factors that could cause serious problems for the Church.** The Moravian Church has a well defined structure, which took years and years to be established. Every organization at its inception, is normally loose in its organizational structure, however, as it develops and grows, it puts together rules and regulations to guide and solidify its existence. At the same time, the Moravian Church like most other organizations, allows for review and improvement of its structure from time to time. There are many who advocate for the dismantling of the structure, without having anything to replace it. When one recognizes the struggles, challenges, persecution, burning at the stake, excommunication and the near extinction of this church, it is clear to see that there is a lack of knowledge of the historical foundation of the Moravian Church, on the part of those who advocate the dismantling of the structure.

John Hus was a great leader who influenced the Moravians and was probably the single most important person that God used to ignite the Moravian movement. He was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415. Those who sought to serve Christ never gave up, in spite of the danger of losing their lives. On March 01, 1457, the Moravian Church was born. It was born of the great revival of faith at the close of the middle ages, arising from the national revival of religion in Bohemia. They were so in tuned to Christ that they maintained a living fellowship in Him, with the help of the Bible and hymns in their own tongue. **They put in place a careful system of discipline, to guide their lives in the way they discerned God wanted them to go, for a lack of discipline could destroy any organization.** The structure was and is elastic enough, to allow one to praise and worship God without being enclosed in a box.

Another threat is the boldness of other Christian denominations and those of other Faiths, to tread where we are afraid to go. Moravians need to possess that **boldness founded on the Word of God and commissioned or sent by Jesus Christ.** The word of God must saturate our beings so that we can stand up and witness boldly for Jesus Christ.

Finally, other denominations are expanding at the expense of the Moravian Church, for too many persons are not grounded in Jesus Christ. The result is, they are tossed two and fro by every wind of doctrine. Rick Warren, in his book "The purpose driven Church" says, **A prayer-less Church is a powerless Church.** The prayer life and fellowship of every member must be strengthened, and there must be a real desire to lift Jesus higher. If these things are intact, the future of our Church is secure.

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