

St. Margaret's & St. Mary Magdalene

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Advent, Glorious Advent

My favourite liturgical season is without question, the glorious season of Advent. The hymns are so rich, regal and thrilling. It's a shame Advent lasts for only four weeks of the year. I could sing 'Lo, He comes with clouds descending' all year round. What makes our church so different from the rest is our music. Parishes in Nassau and Freeport are fortunate that they have proper instruments and people paid to play them. On the family islands though, life is very different.

While visiting Fr. Stephen Grant at St. Mary Magdalene West End to record some music for them on their impressive Wicks electronic organ, I stumbled across a rather nifty device the HT-300 Hymnal (www.hymntechnology.com). All the way from England, the parish has a device that can play any English standard hymn, at any tempo, on a wide variety of instrument settings, in any key complete with intro and interludes if necessary. It can even play cathedral psalm chant with a clicking device to move the pointing along. It's definitely the best I've ever seen. My friend Earl Hepburn has a similar device in Marsh Harbour but this thing beats his hands down.

I urge you, readers, to enjoy the fascinating season of Advent, if for nothing else, the beautiful hymns in our A&M hymnbook.

More Words of Wisdom

More words of wisdom from Bob Briner's little book: *The Management Methods of Jesus: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Business*

Watch your Timing

As you would expect, Jesus' timing was always perfect. It was never haphazard and always had significance. Because his timing was so exquisite, each particular event had greatly enhanced impact. It was no accident that he timed his first public miracle to happen at a wedding, thereby setting his seal on marriage and emphasizing its importance. Timing his entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent crucifixion and resurrection – both of which happened during the Passover celebration – was one of the most brilliantly played strategies of all time. During Passover, Jews from every nation came to Jerusalem. There they witnessed the amazing events triggered by Jesus. More important, many of them were convicted of their sin by the inspired and compelling preaching of Peter and returned to their homelands as converts. Thus, when Paul and the other apostles began to fan out from Jerusalem to spread the word, they found allies waiting for and welcoming them. They didn't have to start from ground zero in building local organizations. Brilliant timing. Tremendous results. Timing should always be a consideration in your corporate planning. Major announcements should be timed for maximum impact. New products should be introduced at the most opportune time. Where appropriate, tie them into significant anniversaries and public holidays. Timing should also be a consideration in releasing the inevitable bad news every organization has from time to time. When can you disseminate it to the public at the least cost to the image of the corporation? Timing was the key in the success of Jesus. Make it work for you too.

Money Money Money, Must Be Funny In A Rich Man's World



Map of North Andros (Image: Google Maps)

because it is alleged that he carried a letter for the exiled French leader Napoleon Bonaparte. The young man couldn't read so he didn't know what it was he had been asked to carry. In any event, while in prison, he meets up with an old priest who had also been imprisoned and was digging a tunnel to get out. After making a wrong turn he ends up in the cell where the young man was. They become friends and the old priest teaches the young sailor how to read, write, fight and fence (swordsmanship). Just before he dies however, he tells the young man a secret. The secret to long lost gold! The young man escapes the prison in the coffin intended for the old priest and finds Sparta's gold hidden in an underground cavern on a small island in the middle of nowhere. He goes on to establish himself, reunites with his long lost fiancée and finally kills the young noble who falsely imprisoned him.

In Andros, we too have long lost gold. Morgan's gold. To my knowledge none of it has been found but the legend remains that it's out there somewhere. There are clues to its location but they are vague. Some pundits say its buried somewhere in Henry Morgan's Cave, a small tourist attraction in Morgan's Bluff. The settlement of Small Hope is named after the chances of ever finding the gold...a small hope no less. But I think there's another clue out there. Just off the shore line of Morgan's Bluff in an area called Pleasant Harbour there is a small cay named Money Cay. Our Diocese owns eight acres of property just along the shore in an area called Money Point but it's the cay that interests me. Could it be that Morgan's gold is buried in an underwater cavern somewhere on the cay like Sparta's gold? Or if the gold isn't there then maybe a map or some sort of clue pointing the way to hidden treasure?

Why do I say this? The cay is directly in line with Henry Morgan's caves. Archeologists have commented on the strange vertical tunnels and passageways in the cave itself. Could the vertical tunnels be enclosed look out towers leading up to the highest point on Andros? What would the users of the lookouts be looking for? Perhaps people approaching the cay? Where did the cay get the name Money Cay from in the first place? And why would the church lay claim to land just onshore of this place? I'd like to explore Money Cay at some point, who knows maybe, as in the story of the Count of Monte Cristo, the priest will stumble across something?

Morgan's Bluff - The New Freeport



Darold Rolle, in his wisdom had a vision for North Andros. Perched on the wall of the Administration building is a picture showing beautiful schematic layouts of the Morgan's Bluff area complete with a Marina Village, Hotels, Restaurants, and second home properties built around a marina and commercial docking facilities. It's pretty on paper, but in reality the area is still grossly undeveloped. It was said that the Campbell's soup company wanted to either open a soup canning facility or a port for its ships to collect produce from here to make soup. The beauty of making soup is that the vegetables don't need to be perfect in appearance therefore making

a market for reject produce. Apparently a brewery was also supposed to open a plant here in the Morgan's Bluff area but that idea was scuttled as well, given the abundance of fresh water here it would have been a profitable venture (apparently, as I am told, it takes 5 gallons of water to make 1 can of beer). We all hope that one day we will see some development happen for this area.

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