



Unity Information Newsletter

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Jonah Sinyangwe Visited Victims of Cyclone “Idai” in Malawi

A short time ago, Jonah Sinyangwe, the project manager for the Unity Province of Malawi, visited the victims of Cyclone “Idai” in their makeshift shelters or reception camps in Malawi, where at least a tent or a large hall roof gives shelter from sun and rain. There are also facilities for cooking as well as basic sanitary installations. He writes: "It is depressing to see how women and children live in miserable conditions in dire circumstances. Older people, people with disabilities and the chronically ill lying helpless and waiting for attention.

New Report on the Situation in Wuppertal

Brian Abrahams, bishop of the Moravian church in South African along with two senior representatives of the Lutheran Church in South Africa, has visited Wuppertal, the town that has recently been devastated by a fire. The visitors summarized their observations and their assessment of the damages eight weeks after the fire as well as the commitment of many people and authorities to rebuild after the disaster, in an impressive five-page report, please use this link:

(http://www.elcsant.org.za/uploads/8/8/3/9/8839616/report_on_the_visit_to_wuppertal_on_23_february_2019_with_pictures.pdf). They also draw conclusions concerning what they think needs to be done next. The report says: "The properties owned by the Moravian Church were insured, so that the re-building should be covered to a large extent." However: "None of the 53 home owners who lost everything, were insured."

Teaching Materials for Secondary School in Bluefields

A representative of the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education visited in April 2019 the "Colegio Moravo Secundaria," in Bluefields on the Costa Atlantica. This Moravian secondary school was founded already in 1921. He presented the teachers a variety of new teaching materials and gave them an introduction of how to use them. The school staff was grateful for all the big and small items in suitcases, boxes and bags. This will allow the teachers at the prestigious school to provide modern, varied, and lively lessons. In addition, the school received several things to better equip the classrooms and specialty cabinets.

Nicaraguan Navy Hands over Turtle Meat

A Nicaraguan naval unit launched and raided a boat called "Jenny" at La Barra, in the Rio Grande Autonomous Region (Autonomous Region of the Caribbean South). 400 pounds of

green sea turtle meat were seized, which should be illegally brought to Bluefields. This meat was distributed to the heads of nearby villages, which gave it among others to a school and a health center of the Moravian Church on the Rio Grande. This was done in line with the regulations of SERENA (Secretaría de los Recursos Naturales). The Nicaraguan naval units have also the task of protecting the environment and preserving the country's natural resources.

Children of Special Schools give Pleasure through Song in the Presidential Palace

Three times a year all children of the Moravian Schools in Suriname sing in public places to give some pleasure to everyone. This is called "Anitri Singi Prisiri". For this year's Easter Anitri Singi Prisiri on April 12, 2019, students from two schools for children with special needs, the Marcel Ria and the L.O.M. Samuel School, were invited the Presidential Palace to mark the begin of Holy Week together with the first Lady of Suriname, Ingrid Bouterse-Waldring. It was a great day for the children and they posed proudly with the first Lady for picture taking.

News from Schools Worldwide: Jamaica, Latvia, Suriname and Tanzania

In Jamaica, students of the "Bethlehem Moravian College" in Malvern / St. Elizabeth were involved in the sports competitions of the Moravian Youth Ministry on April 6, 2019. + + + On April 11, 2019, children and youth of the "Christian David School" in Latvia were working hard to rake the leaves and do other spring cleaning activities on the very extensive school grounds. + + + The School Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname ("Stichting Onderwijs der EBGs") was pleased to see for the 3,000th time the Like button on their Facebook pages clicked on April 14, 2019. + + + On the grounds of the W.Ritfeld primary and secondary school in Suriname the construction of a large new school gymnasium takes shape. + + + The "Elisabeth Preiswerk School" in Ifakara, in the Tanzanian Eastern Province, which was only opened in January 2019, is a secondary school for girls only. It faces again and again difficulties from new state requirements.

Br. K. E. Knudsen Travels again to East Africa

Br. Knud Elmo Knudsen, a missionary for two decades with the Brødrementighedens Danske Mission (Moravian Mission in Denmark), returned to East Africa on April 24, 2019, after a long period of home leave. Via Tanzania he proceeded to the DR Congo to start there the next phase of the health project, which shall benefit the inhabitants of 22 remote villages in the region of Moba on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Jens Peter Rejkjær, Secretary-General of the Moravian Mission in Denmark, who visited the area in 2018, says, the project has been proven to have a very positive impact on the living conditions in the small, poor villages. The next phase of this basic health care project is planned for three years. It has been proven to have a very positive impact on the living conditions of the small, poor village communities at the lake.

Visit of Sajen Msagala to the Mission Youth in Denmark

At the invitation of "Brødrementighedens Danske Missions Unge« ("Mission Youth of the Moravian Church in Denmark") 26-year-old Sajen Msagala from the Tanzanian Rukwa Province spent the second half of April 2019 in Christiansfeld and the surrounding area.

Among other things, he participated in a youth camp in Skanderborg and in an Easter event of the Mission Youth. As the Youth Mission consists mainly from former Tanzania volunteers, some of these knew the Tanzanian guest from their time in "Peter's House" in Sumbawanga, where he – an early orphaned child – lived for several years. The life story of Sajen Msagala, which was told more than once during his stay in Denmark as a great story of hope, is the proves the sense of holistic approach in missionary work.

Various News from Tanzania

Tanzania assisted the neighboring countries of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, after the recent devastations by Cyclone »Idai, with 24 tons of medicines, 17 tons of rice and 200 tons of corn. + In 2017, 600,000 tourists from German traveled to Tanzania. Only from the UK and US more tourists visited the country. ++ In Dar es Salaam, just under 15 percent of households and businesses are connected to a wastewater system.

Easter Greetings from Latvia

The association »Latvia Help” in Germany gives in its newsletter for spring 2019 a short report on life at the "Christian David School" as well as information on the next trip to Latvia from May 1, 2019 on. The school still needs assistance, as the economic strength in the Madona region is two-thirds lower than in the Riga region. The school kitchen is now equipped with new furniture. Two classrooms have been renovated. The potato harvest from the own land was bad, but this could be compensated through working for farmers in the neighborhood. The founder and chaplain of the school, Valdis Strazdiņš, fell seriously ill at the turn of the year 2018/2019, however he came through a cancer operation in Riga well.

Lecture on »Christian Slavery«

Currently quite some researchers study the connection between Christian mission and slavery. A lecture about this theme will be given on May 21, 2019 in Bethlehem / PA. Katharine Gerbner (University of Minnesota) has entitled her lecture as follows: "Christian Slavery: Religion, Race, and Freedom in the Moravian Missions to the Caribbean". She will address the following questions: How did Moravian missionaries respond to slavery? Under what conditions did Christian slaves live? What were the encounters between enslaved people from Africa and European missionaries? When and why did enslaved and free black men and women choose to become Moravians?

Germany's Contribution to Development Aid Falls Short of its Target

In a press release, the "Aktionsbündnis gegen AIDS" ("Action against AIDS") to which German Mission Help also belongs, points out that the contribution promised by the German government for development cooperation still lags considerably behind the target. The total annual transfer payments from Germany to developing countries in the form of grants increased from € 13.4 billion (US\$ 15.1 billion) to € 14.7 billion (US\$ 16.5 billion) between 2017 and 2018. Thus, the ratio increased in relation to gross national income (GNI) as a decisive indicator of cooperation in solidarity from 0.4 to 0.43 percent. Germany fell again short from its target of 0.7 percent of the GNI for global development cooperation.

Greetings from the Great Easter Service in Tirana / Albania

The Board of the Moravian Church in Albania greets its friends around the world at Easter 2019 and writes: "Our Lord Jesus Christ has risen! We send you from the Easter service in our congregational meeting place in Tirana. There were 160 people from all our congregations. Children, adolescents and adults celebrated the resurrection of the Redeemer. In the service we commemorated our very first missionary and pastor, the dear brother Knud Shjodt Pedersen, who was called home on April 4, 2019. We remembered in tears, but also with gratitude the time we spent together with him and his wife Ruth in 1996 in Albania. Thank you for always being with us in your prayers."

Easter March in Paramaribo / Suriname

On Easter Morning April 21, 2019, the members of the congregations in Paramaribo, march after the Sunrise service through the streets near the churches. Those who cannot walk follow sometimes the procession in a vehicle. Loud and spirited, accompanied by music, they bring the Easter message they just heard in the morning service to the houses alongside the streets to be heard by everyone: the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! - and he lives

The Week after Easter at the "Christian-David School" in Latvia

A digital postcard from the "Christian David School" near Barkava in Latvia reports about important activities in the week after Easter. On the own farm, which the school runs to provide for its livelihood, thousands of seed potatoes had to be laid in the ground after the winter, in which the school tractor had previously pulled furrows. The school community had to give farewell was given to two young volunteers from Russia and Ireland after several weeks of service. And a joint excursion of students and teachers into the almost untouched nature was undertaken. They wandered through the meadows, forests and fields along the river Aiviekste (tributary of the Daugava river) and visited the small village of Liepsalas.

Synod in Jamaica opened

The 76th Synod of the Moravian Church in Jamaica was opened in the facilities of the Bethlehem Moravian College in Malvern / St. Elizabeth was opened on April 22, 2019. The Synod convened under the theme: "The Church on a Mission: Achieving holistic development". Br. Kevin Marshall, member of the Provincial Board, welcomed the synodals and introduced to the synodal proceedings. Also Sis. Beryl Rochester as representative of the hosting college welcomed the synod. Archbishop Kenneth Richards from the Roman Catholic Church addressed the synod on behalf of the Council of Churches in Jamaica. Br. Cortroy Jarvis from Antigua, Chairman of the Unity Board delivered a word of greeting and Sis. Phyllis Smith Seymour, Chairman of the Jamaica Province, preached during the solemn opening service. At the end blessed Bishop Br. Stanley Clarke the synodals and all other present.

The newly elect provincial Board consists of Br. Kofi Nkrumah Young, Br. Barrington Daley, Sis. Phyllis Smith Seymour (Chairperson), Sis. Charmane Daley, Br. Simon Jones, Br. Lowel Morgan and Br. Stuart.

Students of "Bethlehem Moravian College" visit Elderly Home

At the Bethlehem Moravian College" in Malvern/St. Elizabeth / Jamaica exists a group of »Women Future Leaders«, a global organization that promotes itself as follows: "Where girls get the skills to become women who build and lead the future in a digital world". The 22

members of this group clothed in their purple Future Leaders T-shirts visited the »Reeves Nursing Home«. There they were guided by employees of this home for the elderly, which is considered a clean, spacious and lovingly run Christian facility, in which only qualified staff works. Of course, the visit was also about the profession of geriatric nurse. For dinner, the group stopped at Deerr's Bar and Chill Restaurant.

German Minister starts assignment in South Africa

Some time ago, Ralf Alfred Rohrbach-Koop, until most recently Lutheran pastor in southern Germany, arrived in South Africa. He was sent out by the German based "Evangelical Mission in Solidarity" (EMS) and will work at the "Moravian Theological Center" in Heideveld and in the Cape Town Moravian Congregation "Wynberg" for the next three years. In the first Facebook post from Cape Town he writes: "Arrived and warmly and cordially welcomed by the Moravian Brothers and Sisters!". Since Alfred Rohrbach-Koop is active on Facebook, experiences of his life and work and his gradual getting to know the beautiful country can be followed. He was already in fire-stricken Wuppertal, where he made nearly 100 photos under the motto "Hellfire and Paradise".

Fundraising for Church Center in Ndola / Zambia

The "German Mission Help" (HMH) asks for money for a new church center for the Moravian work in Ndola / Zambia. Built about 30 years ago, the old building with a corrugated iron roof is hardly usable and threatens to collapse. The place is an important place for many people. It is a place of proclaiming God's word and praying of singing and dancing. Also life counseling and medical help is given to many. The new church center again should become a place of hope. In addition to the previous room concept, facilities for day care for orphans are planned.

Situation in the Moravian Church in Nicaragua

Since January 2019 a schism has affected the Nicaraguan Province. Although two Moravian bishops as well as Chairman of the Unity Board and the Unity Board Administrator visited the Province, they could not achieve any reconciliation. An unauthorized "Synod" established a leadership, which claimed the official Provincial Board headed by Br. José Rivera. However, the legally elected Provincial Board, is still in the office. Until now, 13 pastors have been expelled from their congregations. Pressure is being exerted on other pastors and their families who do not want to submit to the supposed new church leadership.

Claudia Zeising Looks Back to her Time in Afrika

Since three months, Claudia Zeising has been back in Germany after two assignments, each for several years. She was sent out by "Mission 21" ("Protestant Mission Basel" / Switzerland) in the Tanzania Moravian Provinces Church (South and Southwest Provinces). In total, she spent 33 years in Africa. In a kind of "Résumé newsletter", which contains over a dozen pictures, she looks back with some distance to her work with many people who have grown close to her heart. She tells of success, stagnation and failure, of the everyday, the special and the wonderful. Perhaps Sis. Claudia Zeising will soon again leave for another three years to Africa, this time to the Moravians in Malawi, then sent by the German Mission Help (HMH).

News in Brief

The second-hand shops of the "Brødremenighedens Danske Mission", (Moravian Mission in Denmark) called "Genbrug", were celebrated their 25th anniversary on April, 5 2019. In all of Denmark, there are of five of these shops, which work exclusively with volunteers and pay their profits to Moravian Mission. Three of these shops, each with a different assortment are located in Christiansfeld. + + + From June 14 to 16, 2019 the annual General Meeting of the German Mission Help will take place in Niesky / Germany. As special guest Ranya Karam and Wael Aboudi from the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center are expected. + + + Since recently a Moravian Advent Star is pictured on all of the 57 welcome signs of the district Görlitz / Germany (in which Herrnhut is located). There is already some years a touristic sign on the highway, which gives information about Herrnhut. + + + Once again, in the Surinam Province of the Moravian Church a workshop is offered entitled "Schrijven voor een Kerkblad" (Writing for the church newsletter), this time for the congregations of the region Paramaribo South, in the "Saronkerk". The four full-day sessions will be held in the period from May 10 to June 8, 2019. + + + Two young people from two of the Moravian Schools in Suriname had the honor to carry their national flag during the opening of the 48th »Carifta Sport Games«, which took place in George Town, Cayman Islands, from April 20 to 22, 2019. Carifta stands for "Caribbean Free Trade Association".

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