



Unity Information Newsletter

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Women's Conference in Tabora / Tanzania

From July 5 to 7, 2019, a Women's Conference of the Western Province of the Moravian Church in Tanzania took place in Tabora. The participants arrived on Friday, and on Saturday shortly after sunrise the conference began with a procession around Tabora under singing and dancing. More than 200 women were present, mainly from the Western Province, but guests from Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Mbeya were also welcomed. Bible studies followed in the morning. Then the women ate together. Later they listened to lectures on the role of women in family, church and society. Sunday was marked by a great divine service with lots of music, a "feast of love". This was followed once again by workshops, e.g. on breastfeeding.

Again land theft in the Mayangna region in Nicaragua

The Moravian Church in Nicaragua reports another massive invasion of colonists from the west of the country into the Sauni As area, which is covered by tropical rainforest. According to Pastor Rogelio Zacarias, 80 people have invaded the Mayangnas' jointly used forests and the fields on the outskirts of the Moravian village of Suniwas and have driven the Indians away from their territory, preventing them from harvesting. The colonists are armed. A group of indigenous people advocates violent resistance trying to force the colonists back. The leadership of the Moravian Church does not agree with this reaction. They favor alternative, peaceful means, and demand an initiative to solve the situation from the Nicaraguan government.

One year of theological training in Musawas / Nicaragua

The "Instituto Teológico Moravo de Musawas", a branch of the Moravian »Instituto Bíblico« in Bilwi (Puerto Cabezas) was founded on May 7, 2018 – about a year ago.

30 persons, including nine women, who come from all over the vast area of Sauni As are preparing to serve in one of the Moravian congregations, which are often remote and in the middle of the forest. On May 11-12, 2019 the anniversary was celebrated with a festive divine worship service and other self-organized activities. A thorough theological education will lay a sound foundation for the future leaders of the congregations and the church in Nicaragua. The UENIC ("Universidad Evangélica Nicaragüense") in Managua supports the study by sending lecturers. The students work for earning their living.

North Americans visit Moravians in Jamaica

Under the leadership of Bishop C. Hopeton Clennon a group of nine sisters and brothers from the two North American Unity Provinces set out for Jamaica to visit their brothers and sisters there, in May 2019. Sis. Phyllis Smith-Seymour, President of the Moravian Church in Jamaica, spoke to them about the early history of Herrnhut mission. Br. Nelson Waithe, lecturer at the "United Theological College of the West Indies", as well as the two Moravian students told about the exemplary ecumenical orientation of the university. With three sisters there was a

stimulating discussion about the women's work of the province. Four Moravian schools and a quite a few congregations were visited.

From the Young Adult Convo 2019.

This year again, from June 25 to July 2, 2019, the four-yearly "Young Adult Convo 2019" of the North American Moravian Church took place. The purpose of this camp is beyond getting to know each other and growing in faith to acquire a sense of "Moravian heritage" and identity through personal experience. This time the beginnings of the Moravian Mission were at the center of the "Convo", which was held on the islands of St. John and St. Thomas. It was led by Bishop Chris Giesler, the "Director of Mission Engagement" of the North American Board of World Mission. The 18 to 26 year olds came together under the motto: "Walk in the steps of the first Moravian missionaries – Spend time in Hands-on Mission Work – Enjoy Island Hospitality".

Land returned to Delawaren in Moraviantown

After almost 60 years of efforts, the Delaware, who live in the Canadian Indian reservation Moraviantown, have got back a piece of land which belonged to the Moravian mission settlement Old Fairfield until 1902. At that time the Moravians had handed over work and land to the Methodist Church, which passed it on to the United Church of Canada. The Delaware were united to Moravian missionaries in North America like no other people. In decades of fighting, they were repeatedly driven out of their settlement areas, while missionaries supported and accompanied them, and almost destroyed. The land was returned on May 8, 2019 in a solemn ceremony partly in Moraviantown, partly in the nearby "Fairfield Museum".

Women's conference in French Guyana

The recently held women's meeting, organized by the women's desk of the Moravian Church in Suriname ("EBGS-Vrouwen Centraal") took differently to other times not place in Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam, but across the broad Maroni River in the neighbouring country to the east, French Guyana. The local congregation there was formed in the mid-1980s by the flight and expulsion of Surinamese citizens. The women came together in the in the Invocavit congregation in Saint Laurent on August 4, 2019.

Children's camp in Latvia

From July 15 – 20, 2019, 60 Latvian children, who are connected to the Moravian Church, met for the summer camp "Liepna 2019". The camp was a highlight of the children's ministry of the Moravian Church in Latvia. A small preparatory retreat in Mazirbe at the Baltic Sea preceded the retreat "Liepna 2019". Liepna is only six kilometres away from the Russian border. There are three churches here, including an Orthodox church, to which the children were invited for devotion time and Bible study. Children and staff members also walked during the day and in the evening in the beautiful nature or stayed on playgrounds. They painted and did handicraft and studied on their theme from Hebrews 13:16 *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* Br. Gundars Ceipe, pastor of the Moravian Church in Latvia was also present.

Against the extinction of indigenous languages

Within the framework of the "International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019" proclaimed by the UN an expert conference on the subject took place from, July 15-19, 2019 in Geneva (CH). The aim was to find means to better protect and promote indigenous languages. The experts stated: There are an estimated 7,000 languages worldwide. Most of them are indigenous languages. Once they disappear, the culture and identity associated with them, as well as indigenous knowledge and values, are irretrievably lost. The idea was to proclaim a

"decade of indigenous languages" to better implement the complex mechanisms for preserving languages threatened with extinction.

Korean missionary doctors at Isoko Hospital / Tanzania

Korean missionary doctors have already visited the Moravian hospitals in Isoko and Mbozi three times to train the medical staff there. In May 2019, some doctors from Asia visited the "Isoko Hospital" of the Southern Tanzanian Province again. Because they were accompanied by two journalists, a video was produced which - although in Korean - captures the atmosphere of the visit excellently. For the first time, the video also contains aerial shots from Isoko. As a guest gift, the doctors brought 120 goats with them, which they handed over to the foster families of the orphans from Isoko. The goats were received with great cheers. The home church of the doctors goes back to the work of Basel Mission, which has been closely linked to the Herrnhut Mission for 200 years.

Robert Hopcroft pays tribute to Windrush generation in Great Britain

At a rally of the Provincial Men's Fellowship in Great Britain, Br. Bob Hopcroft, long-time chairman of the British Provincial Board, paid tribute to the so-called "Windrush Generation". On 22 June 1948, the ship "Empire Windrush" brought 1,027 passengers from Jamaica to London, 802 of whom declared the Caribbean their home. Later on, hundreds of thousands of people more from the Caribbean came to Great Britain. With them came their temperament, culture and diligence to Europe. Bob Hopcroft said: "Where would we be in the British Province without our brothers and sisters from the Windrush generation? Their loyalty, their support, their enthusiasm for all congregation and provincial events, they are a shining example to us all."

Youth evangelization in San José / Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, one of the smallest provinces of the Moravian Church (founded in 1980), an evangelistic youth camp took place recently - as already in the two previous years. The youth gathered for lectures and church services in the rooms of the "Monte de Esperanza" congregation in San José. Present was also Br. Leopold Pixley, chairman of the Province. The guiding question for the evangelization was: "How do I serve God?" Starting from the fact that all young people have talents, but that they often do not know how to put them at the service of Jesus, the talks focused on the diversity of work for the Kingdom of God. The best way for young people to be enthusiastic about the cause of Jesus is for their peers to address them.

New rehabilitation centre for people with leprosy in Sikonge / Tanzania

Already since 1922 there has been a leprosy work in Sikonge in today's Western Province of the Moravian Church in Tanzania. In the 1950s this work had the greatest extent. Next to a leprosy hospital there was a leprosy village with 500 patients. Leprosy has been in retreat for decades because the disease is now well treatable and curable. However, there is still a great fear among the population of people with leprosy characteristics, so that they suffer stigmatisation. In this situation, the Moravian Church has decided to establish a rehabilitation centre for people with leprosy near the "Sikonge Hospital". The project is supported by the Danish Moravian Mission (BDM). The erection of the walls has almost been completed.

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