



## Unity Information Newsletter

Published September October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### German Mission Society Visit to two vocational schools in Tanzania

Following a trip to Zambia, Br. Raimund Hertzsch, chairman of German Mission Society in Germany (HMH), Sis. Bettina Nasgowitz, Project and Finance Officer, and Dr. Marcus Wörwag from a pharmaceutical company, "Wörwag Pharma", visited two vocational schools in Tanzania. The schools in Songea and Namtumbo belong to the mission area "Ruvuma/Njombe" of the worldwide Moravian Church. Responsible for this mission area is the Tanzanian Southern Province. The schools offer courses for tailors, electricians, carpenters and computer specialists. In January 2020, courses for learning the mechanics of motor vehicles shall be added. The schoolbuildings as well as the dormitories, teachers' houses and the car workshops were funded by the family and the company "Wörwag Pharma".

### Severe Earthquake in Central Albania

Albania experienced a series of earthquakes on September 21 and 22, 2019. During the night people did not find rest. The authorities say the earthquake was the worst in decades, with more than a hundred persons injured and considerable destruction. The strongest earthquake occurred on 21 September 2019 with a magnitude of 5.8 on the Richter scale. Other strong quakes occurred after midnight. The centre of the quake was not far from the city of Durrës. All Moravian brothers and sisters in Albania are well.

### Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Palestine Benefits from »Women Charity Breakfast«

In cooperation with Birzeit Municipality, Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center has participated in the Women Charity Breakfast which was organized by Birzeit University Friends Association on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at Carmel Hotel to support young people with disabilities and from poor backgrounds to enable them to further their education. This participation is the product of community partnerships made by Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center with local community institutions in Birzeit area.

### New Provincial Board Elected in the Eastern West Indies Province

The 32nd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province, which met in Barbados already from July 15 – 19, 2019, has elected a new Provincial Board. The responsibilities of the members were agreed on as follows: Bro. Algernon Lewis, Chairman - Administration, Staff Relations, Church Redevelopment, Fraternal Relations and Finance. Bro. Errol Connor, Vice Chairman - Mission and Evangelism Bro. Adrian Smith, Secretary - Ministry, Theological Education and Social Media Relations, Bro. Anselm Richards, Lay Member - Development Sis. Karen Challenger-George, Lay Member - Christian Education, Youth and Communication. Sis. Elisa Hodge was re-appointed to serve as Treasurer, in the interim.

### Moravian Youth Day in Kathmandu / Nepal

Nepal is a small Himalayan state, which has been a republic since 2008. In Nepal, there are three Moravian Churches: one in downtown Kathmandu (since 1997) and one on the outskirts of Khokana (since 2006) and one in Chyasikot. "Moravian Youth Day" is an the annual highlight of the Moravian youth work. On September 14, 2019 about 40 young people and young adults were together for worship, sharing, training, singing and socializing. This is much more than at the weekly meetings in regional groups. This year's theme was Christian ethics. Bad habits were named which are widespread among young people and to whom it is necessary to speak out as Christians: alcohol, drug and gambling addictions, extensive use of the new media, greed for money, bullying and ruthless career aspirations.

### Moravian Youth Retreat in Barbados

The Barbados Moravian Youth Council hosted a weekend retreat from April 26 to 28, 2019. The retreat was under the theme "Connect 2019". The aim of the retreat was to encourage the young people of the Moravian Church Barbados Conference to connect to God and to connect with each other. There were 31 young people at the retreat, which was held at a cottage in the parish of St. Philip. The ages ranged from 12 years to 21 years. Br. Adrian Smith, minister of the Calvary Moravian Church in Barbados, asked the young people for areas in their lives that need prayer and concluded with a prayer for the youth highlighting their specific needs. Later the Saturday morning an informative session on Social Media and its impact on young people took place. The session in the evening, was held as an interactive session on our theme "Connect to God, connect with each other". The night was closed with an open forum to discuss the challenges and issues facing the youth groups and young people of the Moravian Church. We joined the rest of the Moravian community on Sunday 28th April at Mount Tabor for the annual Youth Convention service.

<http://moravians.net/joomla/information/archive2019>

### Governor General of Jamaica Visits Bethlehem Moravian College

On September 26, 2019, His Excellency, the most honourable Governor General of Jamaica, Sir Patrick Linton Allen, paid a courtesy visit of several hours to the 158-year-old "Bethlehem Moravian College" (BMC) in Malvern/St. Elisabeth on Jamaica. The Governor General and his wife were received by the principal Sis. Andrea Wilson-Graham, and by a delegation of students. They were led through the school campus. Immediately after the welcoming ceremony, a festive assembly followed in the school auditorium with a series of greetings, speeches and cultural contributions, in which, among other things, reference was made to the school motto: "Mihi Cura Futuri - My Care is for the Future".

### Mission Festival in Zeist / Netherlands: "About Migration, Uprooting and Faith"

On 21 September 2019, the Mission Festival for all Moravian congregations in the Netherlands took place in Zeist. A large crowd come together to enjoy the various activities: bazaar, a book table, brass music, a worship service enriched by songs of the choir and an introduction to the theme of the day. Workshops were offered. There was food and drink. The day closed with a lovefeast. The whole day was under the theme: "On the way to the unknown land - about migration, uprooting and faith". All proceeds of the day went Moravian Church of Malawi for their engagement in the "Dzaleka Refugee Camp". Br. Christian Lindner, pastor of the congregation in Amsterdam-Southeast, made it clear in his speech that Christians are always migrants, because their homeland is the kingdom of God, which makes them strangers on earth.

### News in Brief

Br. Algernon Lewis, the newly elect chairman of the Eastern West Indies Province, has published an article in the September edition of the provincial newsletter, entitled "Missionary Season", in which he contemplates on the Mission of God and the mission of the church.. [http://moravians.net/joomla/information/archive2019/information\\_newsletter\\_september\\_2019.pdf](http://moravians.net/joomla/information/archive2019/information_newsletter_september_2019.pdf)

Br. Jonah Sinyangwe, Head of Programs of the Moravian Church in Malawi talks about the work of his church in the "Daza-ka Refugee Camp" near Lilingwe: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Gmbsqc7hRY>). The camp is currently home to 44,000 people from D.R. Congo and many other North and Central African countries. A large "Child Care Center" and the "Light of Hope School", a primary school, have already been established in the camp.

### Br. Kalisto Vitus Mapunda Runs Peter's House.

The orphanage "Peter's House" of the Moravian Church in Tanzania (Rukwa Province) on the outskirts of Sumbawanga has a new leader. The 36-year-old Br. Kalisto Vitus Mapunda is now responsible for 35 children and young people, most of whom live there for several years. He is married and father of two children. Previously, he, who received a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Dodoma in 2011, held a teaching position at the secondary school in Kipili. At Peter's House, orphans and other disadvantaged children receive education, housing, food, clothing and attention. The elders have the opportunity to do an apprenticeship so that they can then feed themselves and their families.

### British Mission Board Visits Partner Province in Tanzania

At the end of September 2019, two members of the British Mission Board (BMB), Br. David Howarth and Sis. Roberta Hoey, visited one of the partner provinces churches, the Unity Province of Western Tanzania. They had a look at the congregational work there as well as at many social and educational projects, especially in and around Tabora and Sikonge. With 110,000 members, the Western Province of Tanzania is one of the largest Unity Provinces world-wide. Unlike in other provinces, mission is in the British Unity Province a direct component of church administration. Furthermore, the BMB supports the Moravian congregations in Northern India and Nepal, the "Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center" in Palestine and the "Elim-Home" in South Africa.

### "Bulletin III" by Theology students Demands Justice for the Mayanga / Nicaragua

The Theological Seminary in Musawas, which is affiliated to the "Seminario Bíblico de la Iglesia Morava de Nicaragua" in Bilwi, informs in a Bulletin III about concerns of the students. They tell of five particularly difficult periods in the history of their people, the Mayangnas, and then demand more rights for their disadvantaged people. They complain that those who fight for justice are putting their lives in danger. This is based on a policy aimed at maintaining unjust power structures and intensifying racial discrimination. "Where there is no recognition or respect for our national authorities, anarchy and chaos are rampant," the Bulletin says.

### Grand Suriname Exhibition Opened in Amsterdam / Netherlands

On 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2019, a Suriname exhibition was opened in the "New Church" of Amsterdam. The exhibition elaborately documents the exciting history of the country and its inhabitants with their different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, from the oldest settlements to the independent Republic of Suriname. The work of the Moravian Church, begun in 1735, is also honoured. Over the centuries, the 600-year-old "Nieuwe Kerk" played an important role in the history of the Netherlands. Although it also serves as a ceremonial church, it is above all a place for inspiring events.

### News from the Eastern West Indies Province

After two years of repair and renovation work – necessary due to the damage caused by several hurricanes – two churches in the Eastern West Indies Province have rededicated their church buildings back: the "Chaguanas Moravian Church" in Trinidad and the "Bethany Moravian Church" in St. John.

### Newsletter of the Danish Moravian Mission (BDM) with Lots of Information

The newsletter of "Brødremenighedens Danske Mission" (October 2019) contains a colourful kaleidoscope of information. Among other things, it tells of the mission conference in Christiansfeld on September 20/21, 2019, of the first year of service Br. Janice Leung and his wife, Sis. Mads Refshauge Jakobsen in the mission station Kilipi at Lake Tanganyika, of the first working days of the six new Danish youths who spend a voluntary year in Kipili (2) and Sumbawanga (4) (Tanzania, Rukwa Province), and of the death of Br. C. Mbutu, a pastor who was sent as a South-South missionary by the Moravian Church in Tanzania for three years to Burundi for church planting ministry.

### "Tanzania Day" of the Brethren Church in Switzerland

The "Moravian Mission in Switzerland" and "Mission 21" in Basel jointly invite for a "Tanzania Day" on Saturday, October 26, 2019 in the Zinzendorfhaus in Basel. The guests will include Br. Willey Mwasile, Vice Vice Chairman of the Moravian Church in the Tanzanian Southwest Province, sis. Claudia Zeising, who has recently been active in the Moravian women's work of in Malawi, and Sis. Etienne Jenni, who was working until July 2019 as an IT consultant for the Southern and SouthWest Province of the Moravian Church in Tanzania. All three will talk about their experiences.

### Br. Benjamin Hasting, a Volunteer, Posts from India for the first time

Four weeks after beginning his service as an volunteer in India, Br. Friedemann Hasting, a youth from the Moravian congregation in Gnadau / Germany, wrote his first post. He was sent out by the "Evangelical Mission in Solidarity" through its Ecumenical Volunteer Programme. His post is in the "Harwicke Boys' Boarding Home" of the "Church of South India". It is home to 40 boys who attend either local primary school or college. The first two weeks in Chennai and Bangalore were devoted to information, to adapt to the religious and cultural situation.

### Ecumenical leaders meet in Christiansfeld, Denmark

From October 8th - 10th, the Conference of Secretaries of Church World Communions (CS CWC) met for its annual meeting in Christiansfeld, Denmark. The Moravian Church in Christiansfeld hosted the meeting represented by Br. Jørgen Bøytler, Unity Board Administrator, who is a member of the group. The CS/CWC was established in 1957, bringing together general secretaries from diverse Christian communions as well as representatives of some global ecumenical organisations. The Conference is a fraternal forum of Church leaders aiming at exchange of information on important events in their particular Communions as well as giving an update on the bilateral and multilateral dialogues in which their Communions are involved. The Conference does not pass resolutions and does not issue an official communiqué. Meeting without interruption for over sixty years, the Conference has significantly contributed to build trust and partnership among the Church leaders and between their respective traditions, and to foster the coherence of the ecumenical movement worldwide. The Conference is currently chaired by Reverend Dr Martin Junge, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, who is seconded by the secretary, Dr Ganoune Diop, Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Reports from the following Communion were received during this year's Conference: the Armenian Apostolic Church (on behalf of the Oriental Orthodox Churches), the Anglican Communion, the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Orthodox Church of Constantinople), the Friends World Committee for Consultation, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Global Pentecostalism, the International Old Catholic Bishops' Conference (Union of Utrecht), the Lutheran World Federation, the Mennonite World

Conference, the Moravian Church Worldwide Unity Board, the Organisation of African Instituted Churches, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (Roman Catholic Church), the Salvation Army, the World Convention of Churches of Christ, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the World Methodist Council, the World Evangelical Alliance, and two ecumenical bodies: the World Council of Churches and the Global Christian Forum.

Participation in the opening prayer service led according to the Moravian tradition and in a traditional Moravian Lovefast, as well as the visit to the historic Moravian Settlement in Christiansfeld (UNESCO World Heritage), offered the participants an opportunity to gain more familiarity with this Church.

#### The Global Christian Forum leadership meets in Christiansfeld, Denmark

In conjunction with the CS CWC meeting, the leadership of Global Christian Forum met in Denmark on October 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. The Global Christian Forum is a movement of representatives from diverse Christian churches, organisations and traditions meeting on an equal basis, to foster mutual respect and to address common challenges together.

The Global Christian Forum offers new opportunities for broadening and deepening encounters on the way to Christian unity. It especially promotes relationships between and among Christian churches and traditions which have not been in conversation with each other previously.

General oversight of the GCF is provided by an international committee of church and organizational representatives that reflects the breadth, depth and diversity of the GCF itself.

<http://www.globalchristianforum.org/>

Data collection: Br. Andreas Tasche, ECP, Jørgen Bøytler, UBA

Translation: Dorthea Rohde, Suriname

Editing: Jørgen Bøytler, UBA Lindegade 26, DK-6070 Christiansfeld, Denmark. Tel. +45 40361420. [boytler@ebu.de](mailto:boytler@ebu.de)