



Unity Information Newsletter

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Dr. Rüdiger Mieske Deceased

On October 2, 2019, Dr. Rüdiger Mieske, a physician at the age of 76, passed away at the Niesky Hospital / Germany. In 1986, after complicated negotiations with the GDR authorities, he was able to leave for medical mission service in Tanzania, where he worked as an internist in the "Mbozi Hospital" of the Moravian Church (Southwestern Province). Due to health problems he had to return to Germany in 1989. After the "Fall of the Berlin Wall" he founded in Niesky the Association of Friends of the Hospital in Mbozi ("Verein der Freunde des Hospitals in Mbozi e. V."), which still exists today, and for which he remained committed until the end. In the summer of 2019 he was still able to experience that 30 years later in the person of Dipl. med. Jens Marcus Albrecht, an accident surgeon another doctor from Niesky left for Mbozi.

Marrons Day Celebrated in Suriname

October 10, the "Day of the Marrons", has been a national holiday in Suriname since 1974. Also in French Guyana and the Netherlands the day is often observed. The descendants of the maroons, have been a major population group in Surinam for 250 years. Marrons, people of a mixture of various nations brought over from West Africa as enslaved people, were the ones who escaped from slavery by fleeing into the interior rainforest and established solidary settlement communities. On 10 October 1760, those escaped from slavery signed a Treaty with the Dutch government after long struggles, guaranteeing the Ndyuka - a tribe formed in the rainforest - freedom and territorial autonomy.

Moravian Church in Myanmar and South Korea Soon?

Through a visit by Br. Jørgen Bøytler, UBA and Sr. Roberta Hoey of BMB, the Moravian Church came in contact with a brother from Myanmar who is from the federal state of Chin and who already has connections to the Moravian Church in Assam (North East India). This brother who translates the Daily Texts into the Burmese Chin language now is planning to start a Moravian congregation in his home country, which is not easy in this region. He asks for intercession. + + Also a translator of the Daily Texts from South Korea expressed the wish to establish a Moravian congregation there. He belongs to a group which is dissatisfied with the American influenced mega churches because they are lacking focus on social work and Diachonical outreach. After a visit by Br. Jørgen Bøytler and Roberta Hoey to South Korea in the spring of 2019, further steps are now being investigated by the worldwide Unitas Fratrum.

Moravian Church in Delhi / India Networks and Grows

Only the last few years have seen a Moravian congregation in the twelve million people city of Delhi. This was the fruit of school work in the "Moravian Institute" in Rajpur, 200 kilometres (125 miles) away. Recently the "Delhi Fellowship", which mainly consists of young people, has been growing slowly but steadily. On September 14, 2019, some members visited the "Sewa Ashram", a social institution of the Christian "Delhi House Society" in Narela, north of Delhi, which is dedicated to the

poorest of the poor. Since some time in rajpur considerations are ongoing with respect to the establishment of a Moravian Theological College.

Unity Women's Desk: Domestic Violence against Women is an Urgent Issue

Unity Women's Desk (UWD) has in October 2019 issued two prayerlists: one is a general letter (English) and the other deals with a special request from Surinam (Dutch). This latter is dedicated to the topic "Domestic violence against women". Sis. Julie Tomberlin, coordinator of the UWD, writes that she is repeatedly asked from all Provinces of the Unity to address this issue, because it is causing distress to women worldwide. More than a third (30,000 women) of all intentionally killed women worldwide were murdered by their current or former partners in 2017. Women are most at risk of being murdered by their intimate partners in Africa (1.7 per 100,000 of the female population) and America (1.2 per 100,000).

The Resource "Water" in Tanzania

As Tanzania's population has doubled in the last 25 years and economic output has tripled, water is becoming an increasingly valuable commodity. About 89% of the available water is used for agriculture. 88% of the water used for agriculture originates from surface water, 12% from groundwater. The "Great Ruaha", formerly a year-round river, now dries up for two to four months. Over the past 15 years, Tanzania has experienced seven major droughts. The quality of the water declines sharply. The rule to keep a distance of 60-meter (65 yard) from springs and rivers to settlements and agricultural activities is largely ignored. Thus fertilizers, pesticides, detergents and household chemicals contaminate the water.

Women's Conference in Tanzania

A conference for sisters from all parts of Tanzania took place from October 2 to 6, 2019 in Mbeya (Southwest Province). The rooms in the "Teofilo Kisanji University" of the Moravian Church were crowded for divine services and other plenary events. On the first day of the conference, pastors from all Tanzanian provinces and missionary provinces were present. They were informed by the women on issues such as gender equality, gender-based violence, the role of the pastor in the fight against the stigmatization of people with HIV/AIDS, female entrepreneurship, etc. On the third day of the conference a fair with products made by women took place. And again and again God's praise resounded.

Four Young People from Tanzania for One Year in Germany

A group of persons engaged in the partnership programme between the Protestant Church district Mühlacker and the Tanzanian Moravian Southwest Province succeeded in a special project. With the support of many people, they have taken achieved for four young adults from Tanzania to do a voluntary social year in Germany. Before the Tanzanians came they learned the German language in their home country. Two young men and one young woman assist socially disadvantaged people in a housing group of the "Diakonische Jugendhilfe Heilbronn" ("Caritative Youth Support Heilbronn"), one young woman works in the integrative kindergarten "Villa Emmerich" in Mühlacker. The organisational effort for this project was enormous, but the gain for the partnership rewards the participants for all their efforts.

Sports Centre for People with Disabilities in Ramallah, Palestine

Children and adolescents from the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre, a Unity Undertaking of the Worldwide Moravian Church situated close to Ramallah, Palestine (West Bank) took part in the opening ceremony of a sports centre for people with disabilities in Ramallah. The opening ceremony took place in the presence of Dr. Laila Ghanam, Governor of Ramallah and Al-Bireh, at the Ramallah

Recreational Complex on Thursday, October 15, 2019. The actual ceremony was followed by several sporting activities for people with disabilities. The children and teenagers from Star Mountain had also prepared a small presentation for the celebrities and other guests. Sport, exercise and dance also play an important role in everyday life at the support centre.

A Moravian Kindergarten for Camagüey, Cuba

In the church hall in the Santayana Street in Camagüey construction work is done on the first kindergarten of the Moravian Church since July 2019. All work was carried out by the congregation itself, and all material purchases were financed by the congregation itself. The rooms will house a day-care centre from Monday to Friday. On Saturday and Sunday it will be used for Christian education. In addition, lunch for church members shall be prepared and taken here on Sundays. The funds required for the construction work come from a farm run by the community. On November 16, 2019 a charity dinner will take place in Winston-Salem/NC to support the Moravian congregations in Cuba. A ticket costs 75 US dollars.

Mandela Exhibition at the Moravian Chapel in Cape Town / South Africa

"Nelson Mandela & The Moravian Church" is the title of an exhibition that can be seen from October 26 to November 3, 2019 at the "Moravian Chapel" in Cape Town (District Six). The thinking of Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) was not only shaped by Mahatma Gandhi, but also by the social ethics of the Moravian Church, as it now turns out. Nelson Mandela visited the Moravian mission station Genadendal on October 10, 1995 after he was elected South African President He named his seat of government in Cape Town after it. The settlement of Genadendal, flourishing in the 18th and 19th Centuries, was considered by Nelson Mandela to be the first place in Southern Africa where blacks, colours and whites met at eye level.

Moravian Youth Forum, the British Province

The British Province have held their first Moravian Youth Forum from 26 – 28 October 2019. It is a forum to discuss the previous synod, and think about the upcoming one as well as any proposals they may wish to bring to the next one. It was an opportunity for young people to connect and engage with the Church on a provincial level. There was a time to ask questions, discuss various topics and also input into the ongoing sustainability review in the British Province.

Bishop Theodor Gill Passed Away in Herrnhut / Germany

On Sunday, November 3, 2019, Br. Theodor Gill, Bishop of the Unitas Fratrum, deceased in Herrnhut. He was born on November 11, 1928 in Paramaribo, Suriname. After studying theology in Berlin, Göttingen and Basel and a probation period in Herrnhut, he was ordained a diaconus of the Moravian Church in 1955. He initially served as pastor in Herrnhut, mainly in youth work. From 1958 Br. Gill worked as a lecturer at the Catechetical Seminary in Gnadau, later as director of the Gnadauer Anstalten (an institution of learning and caring for young people as well as senior citizens) and as pastor there. In 1973 he moved with his family to Herrnhut. Until shortly before his retirement, he was a member of the Provincial Board of the European Continental Province. The last years of his ministry were dedicated to groups of Moravian friends in Upper Lusatia. In 1980 Theodor Gill was consecrated a bishop of the Unitas Fratrum. Until his death he took a lively interest in the life of his church, in ecumenism and in social developments, which he accompanied in prayer. Theodor Gill had been married to Gertraud nee Becker since 1956. They were given seven children as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The funeral, followed by a lovefeast, took place on Friday, November 8th, in the church in Herrnhut. The Watchword on the day of Br. Theodor Gill's death was (Ps 51:17): "Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may proclaim your glory".

Synod in the Moravian Church in Nicaragua

On November 4-8, 2019, the Moravian Church in Nicaragua celebrated Synod in Puerto Cabezas. The Synod elected two bishops: Br. Joseph Rivera, former Chair of the Provincial Board, and Br. Rogelio Juan. A new Provincial Board has been elected with Rev. Evenor Ismael elected as chair person of the Provincial Board. The synod took place in the midst of a major conflict within the Nicaraguan Moravian Church. There is a strong need for the Unity to join in prayer for the situation in the Moravian Church in Nicaragua.



Rev. Evenor Ismael



The synod

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