

Mission Statement of the Moravian Mission Society in Germany

1. WHO WE ARE

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Now it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. (1 Corinthians 4, 1f).

The Moravian Mission Society in Germany (HMH) sees itself as an agency for all matters relating to mission work. Its members are the Moravian Church in Germany, all local Moravian congregations, and friends from other churches. It operates with staff members as well as with volunteers. In addition it relies on the commitment of many more people in many different regions. It lives in close fellowship with sisters and brothers in the whole world.

2. WHERE WE COME FROM

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide (John 15, 16).

The present activities of HMH go back to the mission work of the Moravian Church which started in 1732, when missionaries were sent to the Carribean. It has been well proven since then, and has continued to progress. Throughout the centuries missionaries found that God was already there, when they arrived to bring the gospel to other nations. Remembering how fellowship grew in the formative years of the Moravian Church, HMH has no reservations about differences and will always first look for things which unite people, before it addresses those which divide. It follows a tradition in which the propagation of the Kingdom of God is inextricably linked to speaking up for justice, peace and the preservation of nature.

3. WHAT MOTIVATES US

God, our Saviour, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2,4)

Because Jesus Christ has connected heaven and earth and has conquered death itself, HMH will not accept any divisions as being insurmountable. It is convinced that God does not only act within the domains of the Christian faith and church, but that he can and will be glorified in the entire world. In obedience to Jesus Christ, HMH helps to proclaim the gospel to all nations and invites them to join in fellowship with one another (Matthew 28, 19f). The fact that many people live in poverty induces HMH to work on the improvement of their general living conditions. From its awareness of the devoted love of God (John 3, 16), it derives the necessary amount of steadfastness and creative unrest.

4. WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ (Galatians 6, 2).

HMH does not want to do the mission work of individual Christians and congregations for them, but wants to assist them in fulfilling their mission themselves. Its name is its programme. It wants to help in keeping missionary zeal alive and finding new friends, both by word and deed, by providing funds, ideas, presentations and publications.

In a time which is characterised by globalisation and a rapid change of values, HMH speaks up for the weak and the deprived. It holds other cultures in high esteem and advocates peaceful and respectful dealings with other religions. Through its activities it not only aims at making the gospel widely known, but also means for it to reach and change the hearts of individuals.

5. HOW WE WORK

This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you (John 15, 12).

HMH works in close co-operation with the world-wide Moravian Church and in the context of various mutually agreed partnerships. In all its activities HMH sees itself as a competent and critical partner, always glad to make use of the expertise of others. Projects supported by HMH are meant to provide help for self-help, not to create new dependencies. HMH works conscientiously with the goods entrusted to it and accounts for them on a regular basis. It seeks dialogue and settles practical matters with local Christian groups, churches and mission societies. Guided by the love of Christ it is in no need for aggressive missionary strategies to attain quick success. It knows that it only needs to plant the seed and give it water, since God himself will let it grow (1 Cor. 3,7). In its work HMH sees itself not only as a helper, but also as a learner. It has no intention whatsoever of making other people's minds up for them, not in a theological nor in a spiritual respect. It not only demands that others must live in solidarity but acts in the same way itself.

6. WHAT WE NEED

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4, 10).

HMH relies on the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all its activities. It benefits from diverse ecumenical relations and realises that it is only possible to find out what is right, important and useful by remaining personally faithful to the word of God and to the congregation. Besides that, HMH depends on the prayers and the support of its members and friends, as well as the continuous feedback from those who benefit from its work. It wants information to spread in all directions so that transparency and mutual trust can grow.

*Resolved by the members of the
Moravian Mission Society in Germany
on 31st August 2006*