



ONWARD

Mission Society of the Moravian Church Newsletter

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Clinica Evangelica Morava Ahuas Celebrates 75 Years



In celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the work of the Ahuas Clinic, and in recognition of the ways we can help set this ministry up for success well into the future, the Ahuas Committee has created the **"Ahuas Anniversary Fund"**. This fund will be held with other investments of the Board of World Mission, and any distributions will be done through the Ahuas Committee in consultation with leaders at the Ahuas Clinic. **The goal in this anniversary year is to raise \$75,000 to seed this fund.** This fund will function above and beyond the regular subsidies provided by the BWM and general donations.

This special fund will be available to help with any special maintenance or equipment purchases, and generally, be available to ensure an added layer of financial security for the Ahuas Clinic well into the future. While the whole balance will be available at any time should special circumstances arise, the goal is to continue to invest and grow this fund over time so that the growth of the fund can work to be a sustainable source of income for the clinic. Full endowment of the clinic's budget is a long-term goal, but you can help with these first steps today by making a donation to the "Ahuas Anniversary Fund" and helping us reach the special goal of \$75,000 for the 75th anniversary in 2021!

The origins of the Honduran Moravian Medical Work - Rick Nelson

In 1935 there were only two Moravian congregations in Honduras with a total membership of 240 persons. By 1945, when Werner Marx was named Provincial President, there were six congregations and 1,133 members. Reverend Marx (whose uncle had been Unity President and whose father had been a missionary in Tibet) had arrived in Cocobila on La Mosquitia's North Coast two years earlier. He became the lead proponent for a formal Moravian Medical work in the new province.

More than any other, Brother Werner Marx was the person responsible for the founding of the clinic in Ahuas. After George Heath left the field due to ill health in 1945, Marx continued to press the mission board for a medical missionary. His constant requests to the Board of World Mission were initially met with opposition. In a 1989 letter to me, Brother Marx said, "Bishop Gapp was very insistent that the medical work in Honduras be very limited. In fact, he was loathe to give authorization for the development of a Clinic."

Honduran leadership also saw the need for medical care. The 1944 Provincial Assembly wrote to the Board of World Mission, "We are requesting a great thing: Please send a person capable of doing the work of a doctor."

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WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

It was in this setting of reluctance on the part of the Board of World Mission on the one hand and continued insistence from Honduras of the need that Brother Marx recruited a Registered Nurse, Cleve Schallert Fishel who arrived in 1946, and arranged for the sending of his brother, Dr. Samuel B. Marx, to Ahuas in 1952.

Finally, Reverend Marx's persistence paid off. In 1946 he wrote, "The 16th of June of 1946 we planted the corner post of the new clinic in Paptalaya. (Paptalaya because at that time there was no community of Ahuas.) Local men under the supervisión of Belisario Morales, sawed 5,000 feet of lumber and Werner wrote, "We chose Ahuas for the medical facility because it was accessible to all of La Mosquitia".

In October of 1945, Registered Nurse, Cleve Fishel, left the States by boat, bound for Honduras. She was born the 14th of July in 1914 and was 31 years old when she arrived in Honduras. She was the first Moravian to be sent to Honduras as a medical missionary (if we do not take into account Anna Kreitlow who, though she worked in what would later become Honduran territory, was sent to work under the auspices of the Nicaraguan Church in what was believed at the time to be Nicaraguan territory).



Cleve Fishel, who left after three years of service, ministered in what Werner Marx described "as lonely a spot as any other missionary lady anywhere".

In January of 1952 Sam and Grace Marx and three children arrived in Ahuas to begin a three plus decade period of medical and spiritual service with the Moravian Church.

For the next seventy five years, the Clínica Evangélica Morava was the major medical center in all of La Mosquitia. From a one-room clinic with one bed during the ministry of Cleve Fischel in the 1940s, the clinic was gradually transformed into the only hospital in the entire region. By the time the 21st Century dawned, the hospital had expanded to include twenty buildings, twenty inpatient beds, three outpatient exam rooms, ultrasound, lab, x-ray, pharmacy, offices for doctors and administrators, a hybrid solar/generator electrical system and a full time staff that included two doctors, two registered nurses, practical nurses, an anesthetist, lab, x-ray, administrative and maintenance staff.



Mission Awareness Festival

Sunday, July 25, 4-6 PM

Olivet Moravian



The Mission Society of the Moravian Church is hosting a festival to spotlight and share about the many Moravian missionaries and missions we support along with other ministries that support mission work.

You can learn about various missions all over the world while enjoying entertainment from Moravian musicians and a hot dog provided by Olivet Moravian.

In accordance with the CDC and the NC governor's recommendations masks are optional at this event.

If you have any questions call the Mission Society office at 336-773-1732.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

Magi-land Update

We are once again thankful to God for the chance to live and work here in Magi-land. Early in May, we were able to take the team of seven up to the mountains and enjoy some quality time with them. Despite the weariness of a long year of travel and difficulty, they have done so well scouting out local universities, building relationships, and sharing with students. While they will be leaving mid-June, they will be leaving behind a foundation for the work that the next team will pick up in August. That's right—another team will be following behind them and plan to be here for a full year! Praise God!

One great source of encouragement in May was our brother, Tony. In three consecutive weekends, we took him through the evangelism training, and then on the 21st, he was baptized! At our most recent large group gathering for our church, we met in our garden and after we finished praying, singing, and studying the Word, Tony was baptized by Lars. It was a beautiful day of fellowship and a glorious witness to the change in Tony's heart and mind. Please keep praying for him as he continues to share and grow.



Dusty Harrison Update

This spring, I celebrated 15 years on staff with Greek InterVarsity. Hard to believe! And what a unique year of ministry this has been...

Looking back on this school year (and all of my time on staff), I am grateful for the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness, and for the bold and resilient faith of staff and students - including students like Emma Scott, Sarah and Will, and Hunter (pictured here at our National Staff Conference in January 2020).

A natural leader, Hunter has helped to start his fraternity (Chi Phi) at Clemson, served as president for Chi Phi and Clemson's Student Senate, and served in a variety of leadership roles with Greek IV - not to mention his passion for the Bass Fishing team! It has been a joy to watch Hunter grow in his faith and desire to use his leadership gifts to glorify God and bless others. After much prayer and many conversations about joining Greek IV

staff, I am excited that we recently hired Hunter as a student intern for his "super-senior" year, with the intent of him joining full-time staff after graduation!

"Joining InterVarsity as a student intern will allow me to have relationships with college students unlike other staff before. Not only will I be able to share the Gospel, but I will be able to do this with the perspective of a current student...Additionally, I will get a glimpse of what full-time staff do and this will hopefully prepare me for additional opportunities," Hunter said.

Praise God for using Hunter's college and fraternity experiences to strengthen his faith! Also, I thank God for the many other Greek IV students - most of whom will not come on staff - who will faithfully serve and lead in a variety of other roles after graduation.

Phil and Ashley Sineath

The CO SERVE team just finished 5 days of leadership and ministry training for a new cohort of CO missionaries (pictured here). In the coming months, these young laborers will be deploying to Europe, Asia, and South America to partner with local churches in sharing Christ with university students. Many of these young people came to Christ during their time in university, and now your partnership is sending them around the world. Incredible. **Join us in praying for their journey that is just beginning!**



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MISSIONARY UPDATE



Charlie and Vicki Brent Update

Something happened recently that we hope will encourage you, because your prayers for students here helped make this happen. I am helping a graduate student, Karan (pronounced Car-Ahn), from India with a 3d printing project this summer. He asked if he could come over to discuss the project and watch me set up the prints. Praying for our time together, I asked the Lord for an opportunity to start a spiritual conversation with him. He arrived right on time-after a 40 mi-

nute bike ride to my house! Out of the blue he asked, "Where do you go to church?" Sudden awareness that God was answering our prayers flooded my heart. Even stranger, because he and his family are Jains, he said he was going to Bible study at Grace Bible and asked if I was going to be there. An hour-long discussion of Christianity and Jainism ensued. Now the door to continue talking about the Lord Jesus is wide open! We continue to have spiritual conversations and he is currently reading Proverbs. Please keep our future conversations in prayer.

Steve and Ann Marx Update

God loves the people of Puluk. An MAF Kodiak plane, with pilots Nate Fagerlie and Brian Marx, landed **for the first time** on its challenging airstrip May 23. Construction on the airstrip began 30 years ago, so recently was a big day. Celebrations, dancing and cooked pig that followed the plane landing all added to the main point that now a team of believers in Mokndoma can more easily share the story of Jesus with their distant relatives. God's Word is coming, and the excitement and gratitude were clearly displayed. A short flight to Puluk by an MAF airplane will save days of arduous hiking over steep, rugged, risky terrain.

Though not on the "front lines", we are a vital link in the chain of opening this airstrip by purchasing parts to keep our aircraft fleet operating safely and efficiently, including the Kodiaks that will serve the new airstrip at Puluk on the big island of Papua.



MISSIONARY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for new volunteers to help with Bridges International ministry in the fall and a need for students that are interested in being officers in Bridges at Texas A&M.
- Pray for the missionaries in the Magi-land and their upcoming furlough in August.
- Continue to pray for the students participating in the Romans Bible study in Croatia. Student schedules are changing with exams and jobs.
- Pray for the Greek InterVarsity Regional "Summer in the Psalms" Zoom Bible study and National Greek IV Leadership Meetings (June 22-24, Indianapolis).

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you." Jeremiah 29:12

PRAY EVERY DAY—JULY

1. We know that we abide in Him because we have His Spirit within us. Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent in Croatia.
2. The home of God is among mortals. Pray for Charlie and Vicki Brent in Texas.
3. God is not far from each of us. Pray for Safiatu Braima's visit from Sierra Leone.
4. Sunday-My grace is sufficient for you. Pray for Moravians in Peru.
5. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Pray for Moravians and Armando Rusindo Foundation and Cuba.
6. Seek the welfare of the city and pray for it. Pray for Moravians in Honduras.
7. Deliver us and forgive our sins, for your glory. Pray for Moravians in Nicaragua.
8. We ponder your steadfast love, O God. Pray for the Thiessens in Mexico.
9. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger. Pray for the Teshes in Kenya.
10. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. Pray for Unity Women's Desk
11. Sunday-My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people. Pray for the Sineaths in Campus Outreach.
12. Outdo one another in showing honor. Pray for the Harrisons with Greek InterVarsity.
13. You O, Lord are my shield and defender, the lifter of my head. Pray for Steve and Ann Marx (MAF).
14. Christ has set us free. Do not yield again to the slavery of sin. Pray for the Board of World Mission.
15. When you have done the will of God, you will receive His promise. Pray for Alan and DeeDee lobst in France
16. God is the god of the living for all in Him are alive. Pray for Kevin and Charity in the Middle East.
17. He heals the broken-hearted and binds their wounds. Pray for Annie B Missions (Star Mt).
18. Sunday-Do not be afraid; I am the first, the last and the living one. Pray for the Hoffmans in HIV/AIDS Ministry.
19. In Jesus Christ, we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin. Pray for Brian and Heather Marx (MAF).
20. "Those who love me, I will deliver." Pray for police and firefighters everywhere.
21. Do not despise the Lords discipline. Pray for PEC members, Bishops and other church leaders.
22. When you have eaten your fill, do not forget the Lord your provider. Pray for summer camps and campers.
23. Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania.
24. Let no evil talk come out of your mouth. Pray for disaster relief volunteers.
25. Sunday-The Lord is faithful in all His words and gracious in all His deeds. Pray for Adopt A Village in Tanzania

26. I urge that supplications, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all. Pray that our country will turn back to God.
27. There is one God and Father of all. Pray for those still suffering loss due to disasters.
28. In Him we live and move and have our being. Pray for medical personnel serving in the war against Covid-19.
29. The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out to hire workers for his vineyard. Pray for Moravian ministers and for churches needing them to bring God's word.
30. Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Pray for the food programs taking care of those needing good nutrition.
31. No one receives anything except what comes from heaven. Pray for the leaders of our churches and our country.

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DID YOU KNOW

During most of the first fifty years the attendance at the annual meeting (of the Mission Society) was between three hundred and fifty and five hundred. The annual meetings of the Society were held at Home Church until 1965.

At the annual meetings the ministers sat across the front of the church, and the lovefeast was followed by a business session. Minutes were read, directors elected, and mission appropriations voted on. The people from the various churches were asked to stand when their church's name was called, and a tally was taken. The service always ended with a thrilling note as the congregation sang "Shall we whose souls are lighted," and "Sing hallelujah, praise the Lord."

The year 1933 was also special for missions in the Southern Province. A. David Thaeler, Jr. had just graduated from Seminary and medical school and was ready to embark for Nicaragua to establish a hospital there. The Great Depression, however, limited funds the church could give him. There was only enough for basic medicines and medical instruments. Dr. Thaeler had lived parts of his life in Winston-Salem and was well-liked. The people wanted to help him! Thus a great gathering was planned at Bethabara at 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, May 21, 1931. The *Wachovia Moravian* had requested the people to bring to the morning services "articles of laid aside jewelry, whole or broken, gold and silver pins, rings, chains, etc. and even treasured pieces you may be willing to devote to the Lord." These were smelted down, and an 80 percent profit was realized. That offering and others of the day amounted to \$205, equivalent to about \$2,500 today. Two thousand people attended the special afternoon service.

(Taken from "A 75 Year History of the Mission Society of the Moravian Church, South" by Christian D. Weber)

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Online Giving: <https://mmfa.info/mission-society-of-the-moravian-church-southern-province-donation-form/>