



Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

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Situation on the Star Mountain still tense



The situation at the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC in Palestine remains tense. The war in Gaza between the radical-ist Hamas and Israel does not directly threaten the SMRC in the West Bank. However, the Palestinian territories have been closed off to Palestinians since 7 October, when Hamas attacked Israel. Many have lost their jobs in Israel and now have no income. The economic crisis is also hitting Star

Mountain hard. Many parents can no longer find the money to pay for transport for their children and young people to Star Mountain. They therefore have to stay at home and receive no support. "We need additional funds in this special situation," explains Ranya Karam, Director of the Star Mountain. "Every donation can help to give the children a bit of routine and peace of mind in their everyday lives at Star Mountain. This is very important in this uncertain and desperate situation in society and in the families." You can donate [here](#).

Synod in Malawi elected new church leadership



An electoral synod was held in the Moravian Church in Malawi at the end of October 2023. A new church leadership was elected in the rooms of the Moravian Church's *Light of Hope School* on the edge of the huge *Dzaleka Refugee Camp* (currently 60,000 refugees) operated by the UNHCR near the capital Lilongwe. It now consists of Rev. Mussa Mwangulukulu (Chairman), Rev. Joseph Chapinda (Deputy Chairman) and Rev.

Mourice Chikhawo (General Secretary). Two pictures [here](#). The beginnings of the Moravian Church in Malawi date back to the 2000s. It works in the status of a Unity Province. Today, there are ten congregations in Malawi with around 1,800 members.

As far as the work in the *Dzaleka Refugee Camp* (school, child care centre, women's centre, various social projects) is concerned, the Moravian Church in Malawi works together with the state and also with other NGOs.

Christmas gift campaign of the Zeister Missionary Society has begun



The Zeister Zendingsgenootschap ZZg's Christmas gift campaign for Suriname has recently begun. It has become a wonderful, heart-warming tradition: at Christmas, the ZZg supports elderly people in need in a nursing home (e.g. Huize Albertine and Huize Francis), single mothers with children and children in special institutions (Sukh Dhaam children's home, Leliëndaal children's home, Rebecca

Scheltz boarding school for girls). The ZZg writes: "You can make people happy with a small gift, with some food and with a simple Christmas party. Every year we hear that it is very special for Surinamese people that we think of them in the Netherlands. The General Social Service of the Moravian Church in Suriname is our partner. They make sure that the Christmas parcels are distributed, they think about the organisation of the Christmas party and they listen carefully to young and old who could do with a little more attention than usual at Christmas." More in Dutch [here](#).

Anniversary in Suriname: 75 years of the "Friedrich Staehelin School"



On Wednesday, 1 November 2023, the Friedrich Staehelin School of the Moravian Church celebrated its 75th anniversary in Paramaribo, Suriname. The highlights of the celebrations were a thanksgiving service and a social get-together, which was also attended by a number of former pupils - including an 81-year-old - who reminisced. However, help was also requested at

the anniversary: Time is taking its toll on the school's historic building. The building urgently needs a new coat of paint. An appeal was made: "The Friedrich Staehelin

School is calling on all its former pupils to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the joint endeavour to renovate the school. The renovation work is an opportunity to give something back to the school from which you have received so much. Practical help with the renovation work is also welcome. Please contact the school management in this regard." Some pictures [here](#).

From the anniversary "100 years of Sikonge Mission Hospital" in October 2023



Singing and dancing and celebrating together, talking and listening to each other, eating and drinking together - that's what it was all about for 500 people at the recent 100th anniversary of Sikonge Mission Hospital in the Western Province of the Moravian Church in Tanzania, with the Unity Board Administrator UBA, Jørgen Bøytler, in attendance. More in Danish [here](#). Several choirs had written special songs for the occasion.

Craftsmen were busy completing a monument and a new entrance area for the hospital. Seamstresses were busy making new festive dresses. Chickens were brought in from the small villages in the neighbourhood to be slaughtered. If you wanted to go to the hairdresser, you had to book in advance so that not everyone was at the door at the same time. The entire hospital, including the grounds and outbuildings, was spruced up. All inpatients received a small gift.

German President asks Tanzania for forgiveness for colonial crimes



The German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was the first German head of state to pay an official state visit to Tanzania from 30 October to 1 November 2023. During his dialogue with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, he emphasised the importance of economic cooperation, among other things. At a joint press conference, the Tanzanian President also

emphasised the goal of expanding trade and investment between the two countries. Frank-Walter Steinmeier was particularly keen to see greater promotion in the field

of renewable energies. The second focus of Frank-Walter Steinmeier's trip to Tanzania was the colonial past of the former German East Africa. Speech [here](#) (german) and [here](#) (Swahili). By asking for forgiveness for the crimes of German colonial rule, the President fulfilled the demands of many civil society groups, not least the missionary organisations. More among others [here](#).

Report on the visit to the partner community Ibungu/TZ (2nd part)



The second part of the report by Katharina Rühe, Moravian Church Rhine-Main, on the partnership visit to the small Moravian Church of Ibungu in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania in summer 2023 can be found in the congregation newsletter for November/December 2023. see [here](#) (pages 4+5). To quote from the opening section of the report: "On the very first day, we managed to persuade the Tanzanian cook sisters

to let us help them cook. We scooped out rice, cracked beans and chopped tomatoes and spinach without a board or table using huge knives. We lit the firewood in the cookhouse and filled the large pot with rice and vegetables. At the end, we asked if we could cook something ourselves. So it was our turn one afternoon. The young people present and Zainabu, our cook sister, watched with great pleasure. In the end, we sat in the church and ate our pasta with tomato sauce in a big group."

Synod in Nicaragua elects new church president



In times of political and ecclesiastical crisis, a synod was held in the Unity Province of Nicaragua in mid-November 2023. The synod members met in the Iglesia Morava Ingnika Raya in the provincial capital of Managua. A picture ([see here](#)) shows the new church president, who bears the title of superintendent in Nicaragua. The previous superintendent, Rev Evenor Ismaël, can be seen seated behind the

liturgy table. At the microphone is the newly elected superintendent, Rev Fredimil Muller. Next to him is the 2022 elected Mayangna Bishop Rogelio Juan Zacarías.

During the synod, the Rev. Crispin Orozco was also consecrated as a presbyter (ordination level between pastor and bishop). This was performed by Evenor Ismaël and Rogelio Zacarías. The Moravian Church in Nicaragua is divided into the minority of the officially recognised Unity Province and a majority that is not officially recognised. The split is primarily based on political tensions within Nicaragua and less on theological disputes. The Unity Synod, which took place in Cape Town in September 2023, is attempting to initiate a reconciliation process in Nicaragua through messages to both parts.

Prime Minister's request for forgiveness from Inuit in Hopedale and Makkovik



"As Premier and on behalf of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, I apologise for all that has been done to school children, families and all Inuit in Labrador. I am sorry that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador allowed crimes to happen and that they did not step in to protect the children who should have been protected." This is what Andrew Furey, the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada,

said to the residents of Hopedale and Makkovik on Thursday, 2 November 2023, during the third of six promised visits to Labrador. Inuit Toby Andersen from Makkovik, who was forced to attend a government residential school at the age of 12, accepted the apology on behalf of the residents of the semi-autonomous Inuit region of Nunatsiavut. However, this is only the first step towards reconciliation. Material compensation must follow. For example, there is still no doctor in Makkovik. Only three times in four years has a doctor from distant St John's been to Makkovik. - To a large English-language article by CBC News with reports from the former Herrnhut mission stations Makkovik and Hopedale [here](#).

Sporty days at "Bethlehem Moravian College" in Jamaica

At Bethlehem Moravian College BMC in Malvern/St. Elizabeth on Jamaica, a renowned vocational training centre of the Moravian



Church, one sporting event followed another over the past few days. Sport plays a very important role in all training programmes. In a football competition for college teams, the BMC team defeated the youngsters from Church Teachers' College in Mandeville 2:0 to continue their unbeaten streak. Some pictures [here](#). Later, the team from Northern Caribbean University, also from Mandeville, was defeated 2:1 on the college campus. Some pictures [here](#). Finally, the BMC women's netball team outclassed the team from Montego Bay Community College 21:10. Pictures [here](#). Netball is a team game similar to basketball that uses a lighter and softer ball than basketball and is played without a board behind the basket.

Awarding of scholarships and work of the IT Club at Bethlehem Moravian College



Sanica Montague (photo left) and Sanya Boyd (photo right) from Bethlehem Moravian College BMC, a vocational training centre in Malvern/St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, were awarded the Esme Morgan Early Childhood Scholarship. See [here](#). The award is a full scholarship that opens up special funding opportunities for the scholarship holders for one year. Congratulations! For some time now, the BMC has been running the *BITS Academy*. The trainees can acquire various IT skills here, e.g. website design, marketing, graphic design and cyber security. Alpha members of the IT Club, i.e. new members, are trained by club president Aljay Hamilton. Pictures [here](#). The IT Club also offers its services externally. It writes on Facebook: "Contact us today! We will design a professional website for your company." The Omega members of the IT Club are responsible for suitable photographs for websites. See [here](#).

Another afternoon of fairs and entertainment in Paramaribo

Following the success of the first such afternoon a few weeks ago, another fair and fun afternoon



for all generations, a so-called Zatertag Braderie, will take place on 4 November 2023 from 4 to 9 pm at the Moravian Church Youth Centre in Paramaribo, Suriname. Invitation and programme with information on offers [here](#) and [here](#). "Come to our colourful afternoon on the first Saturday of the month. We offer: Horse riding, pedal car rally, face painting for children, fun games, upbeat music, food stalls, clothes

stall, fair and sales stalls and much more. All stall holders will be accommodated in one hall, so it is not necessary to have your own tent. Electricity consumption is included. Seating available. Fee for a catering stand SRD 700 (EUR 17.50), for all other stands SRD 350 (EUR 8.70). Small businesses can also rent a stand to advertise their products!"

95 years of the "Graf von Zinzendorf School" as a mulo school in Suriname



On 5 November 1928 - 95 years ago - the doors of the Graaf von Zinzendorf School, the Moravian Church's first mulo school in Suriname, opened in Paramaribo, Suriname. See [here](#). Previously, only girls were taught in this building in a kind of missionary primary school. As there were no secondary schools for local children at the time, the initiative to found a Mulo school was taken in

1928. Mulo (Meer Uitgebreid Lager Onderwijs = Extended Primary Education) was a type of school in Suriname until 2021. The four Mulo school years after the six years of primary school were divided into Mulo-A, which focussed more on economics, and Mulo-B, which focussed more on science. After completing Mulo, the children could transfer to a three-year preparatory school (VWO = Voorbereidend wetenschappelijk onderwijs), which led to university, among other things.

Special service in Leichestor/GB

As a small but global church, the Moravian Church is extraordinarily colourful. The term colourful is often used in a figurative sense:



diverse in terms of language, culture, history and theology. Sometimes, however, the Moravian Church is also a colourful church in a very literal sense, such as recently in Leichesters (UK), when a coloured sister celebrated the Independence Day of her homeland Antigua and Barbuda with her festive and colourful service dress. See [here](#). The sister's dress is reminiscent of the flag of Antigua and Barbuda, designed by Reginald Samuel in

1966, a few years before independence from Great Britain in 1981. see [here](#). The seven rays of the sun symbolise the beginning of a new era. Red symbolises the blood from the time of slavery and the fiery temperament of mankind. Blue symbolises everlasting hope. Black symbolises the soil and the omnipresent African heritage. The triad of gold, blue and white symbolises the main attractions of Antigua: sun, sea and sand. Finally, the V symbolises victory. The theme of the Leichesters Moravian Church service was: "Power of Art - Beauty of Music - Serenity of Prayer".

Audience for Br. Thsespal Kundan with the Vice Governor of Ladakh



Four years ago, on 31 October 2019, Ladakh gained its new status as a Union Territory of India after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act came into force. Prior to this, Ladakh was part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Now the new structures are beginning to take effect. In this context, the Ladakh Lieutenant Governor, Brigadier Dr B. D. Mishra,

met with the Director of the Moravian Institute in Rajpur near Dehradun, Thsespal Kundan, at his [Raj Niwas](#) residence in Delhi. During the audience, he informed the senior government official about his initiatives to set up a new type of teacher training programme at state schools in Ladakh. He had previously been introduced as an expert for this specific task at a round table meeting between the Deputy Governor and Ladakhi leaders in July 2023 (see [here](#)) to discuss various problems facing the country.

President of India visits Leh



The President of the Republic of India, [Smt Droupadi Murmu](#), in office since July 2022, visited the Ladakh region from 31 October to 1 November 2023. On 31 October 2023, she attended the official celebrations of the fourth foundation day of the Union Territory of India Ladakh in the city of Leh. Press release [here](#). A short video of this event in the 24x7 News

Ladakh [here](#). Pastor Danish from the Moravian Church Shey was invited to pray publicly with the President at an interfaith ceremony in Leh on 1 November 2023. The Moravian Church has been working in the Ladakh region for 140 years; it had previously been active in the Lahoul region for 30 years. There are currently three Moravian Churches in Ladakh - one each in Leh, Shey and Khalatse (with outposts). And there are three Moravian Church schools in Ladakh in addition to other congregations and schools in other parts of India (in the states of Uttarakhand and Assam) that have been established as a result of the work of the Moravian Church in Ladakh. Director Elijah Gergan in a longer TV interview about the Moravian Mission School in Leh, which is considered the best school in the city, [here](#). Click here for the school's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MoravianSchoolleh?locale=de_DE

Two Herrnhut lectures in St Peter's Church in Riga



Dr hist. Gundars Ceipe (Riga) spoke on 28 October 2023 in Riga's St Peter's Church on the topic "The Herrnhut Watchwords - a spiritual asset for the world and also for Latvia". See [here](#) (25 Min.). The lecture was given at the 8th conference in the church theme year Colours of the Reformation, organised by the Latvian Evangelical Alliance ([LEA](#)). Another lecture on this day was given by Dr phil. Beata Paškevica, a

Germanist at the Latvian National Library. She spoke on the topic of "Lutheran texts in the Latvian language edition by Friedrich Bernhard Blaufuß (1697-1756)". See [here](#) (35 Min.). This lecture also had a connection to the Moravian Church, as Friedrich Bernhard Blaufuß was one of its most important friends and supporters in the early days. He had studied theology in Halle a. d. Saale and then worked as a house preacher for Magdalena Elisabeth von Hallart, née von Bülow, in Wolmarshof (Valmiermuiza). It was she who invited the Moravians to Latvia and ensured that they spread throughout Livonia and Estonia.

Scientific conference on Herrnhut and Halle Pietism in Halle/S.



For around 15 years, the diverse network of relationships between Herrnhut and Halle Pietism has been the subject of intensive academic research. And the intensity of research continues to increase. Much of the research is also related to the Herrnhut Mission. A conference taking place from 22 to 25 November 2023 at the Francke Foundations in Halle a. d.

Saale bears witness to this. See [here](#). The conference is entitled: Halle and Herrnhut Pietism: Conflicts, Strategies, Practices. Speakers from the Moravian Church are Christoph Theodor Beck (Gnadau), Paul Peucker (Bethlehem/PA), Peter Vogt (Herrnhut) and Peter Zimmerling. Click [here](#) for the topics of all 25 presentations. Leading researchers from Denmark, Canada and the USA will also be attending the conference. Registrations by 15 November 2023 to [annegret.jummrich\(at\)izp.uni-halle.de](mailto:annegret.jummrich@izp.uni-halle.de).

New hymnal and the Watchwords 2024 for the Moravian Church in Tanzania



Pastor Ipyana Mwambona from the Moravian Church in Tanzania (Eastern Province, Dar es Salaam; Chamazi congregation) recently offered a new Moravian Church hymnal via Facebook, along with three other books (Bible, Liturgy Book, Watchwords for 2024). See [here](#). He wrote: "The delivery has arrived! We can finally start using the new book of Christian songs. Order

now! There are only a few copies left". Within a very short time, the pastor received many enquiries and orders via Facebook. The slogans in Tanzania have the somewhat misleading title Kiongozi Kalenda (Calendar for Leaders). See also [hier](#). They contain the watchwords and the teaching text for each day as well as a great deal of personal and function data, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers - and no third texts. In Tanzania, the watchwords are also often broadcast over the radio (Radio Baraka FM) and the village loudspeaker radio.

News in brief

1. The nationally renowned [Moravian Church Mission Museum in Genadendal, South Africa](#) has just commissioned a short image film. It is entitled: "A journey through history like no other". See [hier](#) (2 ½ min.). A somewhat older, longer film about this museum - shot in 2017 in the 50th year of its existence - can be found [here](#). The film pays particular tribute to the numerous awards the museum has received over the past 50 years, as well as its partnerships with many other museums and organisations worldwide.
2. The Spring Gardens Moravian Church on Antigua celebrated two festivals at once with a service on 29 October 2023: Thanksgiving and the 42nd anniversary of the independence of the two islands of Antigua and Barbuda from Great Britain on 1 November 1981. On 31 October 2023, the congregation was then invited to an Indipendence Gospel Experience with the gospel group Legacy. Poster [here](#).
3. All friends of the Moravian Church in Albania will be interested to read or listen to a short contribution by the Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk MDR, which deals with the beautiful tradition of the Xhiro (pronounced: Giro), a public evening tour that originated as a communication medium in the communist era and is still alive today. See [here](#).
4. In view of the current very turbulent world situation, the leadership of the Unity Province of the West Indies East called on the congregations to celebrate 1 November 2013 as the Provincial Day of Prayer. An invitation to a prayer meeting was extended online. See [here](#).
5. On 2 November 2023 in Mbeya, the synod of the Southwest Province of the Moravian Church in Tanzania elected Robert Pangani as a bishop of the Moravian Church following the resignation of Alinikisa Cheyo from the office of bishop. He prevailed over Paul S. Mwabalaswa by 317 votes to 125 with the necessary two-thirds majority. To a longer report by Radio Baraka FM with several pictures [here](#). The date for the consecration of the person elected has not yet been set.
6. On 1 November 2023, the Moravian Mission School in Leh/Ladakh in northern India held a major awards ceremony for special academic and extracurricular achievements. Pictures [here](#) and [here](#). During a public parade, the school's motto was proudly emphasised: "We strive for excellence".
7. A highlight for the children of the International Kindergarten & Shristi Academy of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu, Nepal, was their participation in an Animal Feeding Program at the local zoo on 19 October 2023, organised

by the Friends of the Zoo FOZ. Many pictures [here](#). The children had the opportunity to learn about the animals' eating habits and prepare a meal for them.

8. The Moravian Church in Suriname would like to draw your attention to the next central youth service, the so-called Power Hour. The service will take place on 25 November 2023 at 6.30 pm in the youth centre in Paramaribo. Poster [here](#). The main speaker is Hesli Pansa.

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