



Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Ausgabe 2024-04 vom 22. Februar 2024

Infirmary for "Walani" women's project



The construction of a small health centre in the *Walani* women's project of the Moravian Church in Malawi is already in full swing. The 80 young women will be able to use the new facilities to receive medication and treatment in the event of illness, but also to receive counselling in a safe environment in the areas of menstrual problems, family planning, malnutrition and

hygiene. This will also eliminate the need for costly visits to a distant infirmary/health centre in the future. As the number of women will continue to rise in the near future, the realisation of such a ward is urgently needed. Herrnhuter Missionshilfe is grateful for the support that has made the start of the project possible.

Internship in the "Walani" and "Light of Hope" project



Maren from Freiburg is a psychologist and has spent the past three months doing an internship with the partner organisation of the Moravian Church in Malawi and Herrnhuter Missionshilfe *Moravian Humanitarian and Development Services (MoHDevS)*. The core topics of the internship were mental health, resilience and communication. After a short but intensive familiarisation phase, she carried out training in

these areas in the *Walani* and *Light of Hope* projects. For Maren, her time in Malawi was very formative and valuable. She reports: "I got to know Malawi as a wonderful country with very friendly, open people - the description "Warm Heart of Africa" really came true for me. The three months in Malawi have flown by and I'm back home in Germany with lots of new ideas, friendships and a good 30 degree

difference in temperature. *Tiwonana Malawi* - goodbye!"

From a sustainable forest project in the Sikonge region



The workshop at the Moravian Church's *Sikonge Mission Hospital* in Tanzania (Western Province) has received various tools with the support of the Moravian Church's mission organisation in Denmark (BDM) so that it can now start logging. The number of such orders is increasing. Felling trees seems to be very problematic at first, but in fact it is a sustainable project. In Tanzania,

wood is considered a climate-friendly resource compared to steel and concrete, which otherwise dominate construction. The felling of trees is often regulated in Tanzania. It requires a state licence with which only trees of a certain type and size may be felled. The licences are only issued for wild forest areas that are dormant after logging and can regenerate sufficiently. Unfortunately, ordinary people in Tanzania often buy illegal timber, which is cheaper. In addition, there are many monopolists in the timber trade who artificially drive up the price of timber. If the hospital workshop in Sikonge offers people in the region legal wood at a favourable price, this helps the environment. This information was sent by Michael and Mia and Toldam Korsgård (DK), who have been working on behalf of the mission in Sikonge for two years.

Inauguration of the women's centre in Mzuzu



The Moravian Church's new women's centre was officially opened in Mzuzu, Malawi, on 3 February 2024. The opening was celebrated together with numerous members of the congregation, local politicians, choirs and church staff. Finally, the ribbon was cut by Rev. Mussa Mwangulukulu. There was also a colourful supporting programme full of music, dance and joy. After the official ceremony there

was a barbecue and a meal together. Afterwards there was a guided tour with an insight into the work of the women. The focus was on medicinal plants, composting and sustainability. Kristin Hentschel, who is supporting the project on behalf of Herrnhuter Missionshilfe and Bread for the World, reports on the celebration: "It was

a very emotional and beautiful day. We have completed this project together and are looking forward to our time in the new women's centre. Many thanks to everyone who supported the project."

From the worldwide work of the "Unity Women's Desk"



In two posts, the *Unity Women's Desk (UWD)* recently reported on its global work, which largely consists of promoting the educational, vocational and academic training of girls and women from humble backgrounds. Among other things, the *UWD* supports young female theology students from the ranks of the Moravian Church in South Africa. See [here](#) (on the right: Raylene Williams, who worked for six months at the *Herrnhuter Diakonie* in 2017). With one photo each – see [here](#) (please click left/right) - *UWD* presents 13 young women who graduated with a *UWD* scholarship in 2023: The post states, "Here are some of our women graduates from Tanzania to North Carolina, from Honduras to Nepal! Thank you to all of our donors who are investing in the future of our church and our world. Women graduates are a critical voice in our present."

"Unity Women's Desk" cooperates with new South African NGO



The *Unity Women's Desk (UWD)*, headquartered in Winston-Salem/NC, informs in a post dated 12 February 2024 that a new NGO is being established in South Africa that is dedicated to fighting all forms of gender-based violence. The post states, among other things: "Every province of the worldwide Moravian Church suffers from the phenomenon of violence against women. Such violence happens in our communities and in our congregations. How can we end gender-based violence? The first step is to recognise the phenomenon and talk about it publicly! We need leaders who explain that such violence is unacceptable and who stand up for those who are afraid of being hurt by people they are supposed to trust." Angelene Swart and Lettice Joemath are working for the Moravian Church in South Africa in the new NGO. The *UWD* will support the

new organisation called *Real-Anti-GBV - Resource Education Awareness for Live* - NPO-Reg.-No. 272-430. More [here](#).

Herrnhut missionary brought skulls from South Africa to Germany



On 15 February 2024, the *Sächsische Zeitung* reported in a full-page article by Thomas Ruhland that, with the help of Herrnhut missionaries, at least one human skull came from the South African mission station Shilo via the Genadendal station to Herrnhut for research purposes and was later sold - together with 27 other skulls - to the skull collector Hermann

Welcker in Halle/S. See [here](#). A total of 831 human skulls are still stored in the *Meckelschen Sammlungen* in Halle: the skull of Caffern Mqhayis from Shilo in a display case. The skull bears the inscription *Coll. Becker*; this refers to Carl Joseph Becker, a doctor in Herrnhut, whose son Woldemar later completed a doctorate on the skulls of indigenous people. In Herrnhut, the journalist was given the desired access to the Unity Archiv and also to private ethnological collections. The Moravian Church is pleased about the ongoing research into the darker chapters of its mission and supports it.

Dr Kenneth Serapio begins his retirement



Dr Kenneth Serapio, the first surgeon at the *Clinica Evangelica Morava* in Ahus, Honduras (founded in 1946), who comes from the Miskito people, is retiring at the end of February 2024 after many years of dedicated work at the remote but eminently important missionary hospital for primary care. He fought passionately for the Miskito people to be able to

exercise their right to high-quality medical care, even in the structurally weak Mosquitia region. Because he was able to communicate with his patients in their own language, Kenneth Serapio was always a source of comfort and hope at the clinic. The Moravian Church in Honduras thanks him for his many years of service and for his enthusiasm at work, even when war and discrimination threatened his career on several occasions. A six-minute video with him [hier](#).

About the work of the Moravian Church in Latvia



There is a new video and two pictures from a men's evening organised by the Moravian Church in Cimza (near Rauna) in Latvia, which was also attended by a pleasing number of younger brothers. See [here](#) and [here](#). The Latvian regional newspaper *Laikraksts Stars* in Madona recently reported on the *Christian David School* near Barkava, which has developed as a

Christian school in the Moravian Church environment - and as the first non-governmental school in the new Latvia. Jutas Strazdiņa, one of the school's founders in 1991, reported on new developments at the remote boarding school, which operates without state funding. Four salaried teachers and eight unpaid teachers currently teach 26 children, mostly across classes, often project-based and often outdoors. The nine-year basic school is known in the country for its good atmosphere and excellent learning results. Around half of the children come from the Madona region, while the other half come from further afield, e.g. from Ventspils. There are currently new criteria from the Ministry of Education to which the school must adapt. The entire newspaper article in Latvian [here](#).

News in Brief

1. On 13 February 2024, the Moravian Church in North America will celebrate a *Moravian Day of Giving* for the fourth time. In the run-up to this popular day, the *Moravian Ministries Foundation (MMFA)* offered a prize for five individual Moravian Churches: 2,500 US dollars to be used as desired will be awarded to the five congregations in the USA and Canada with the most individual donors, regardless of the amount of the individual donations. The majority of the donations will be used for missionary work at home and abroad. See the appeal for donations by Chris Spaugt, President of the *MMFA*, [here](#).
2. On the first Saturday of every month, the Youth Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname now organises a *Zaterdag Braderie* (Saturday social event). On 3 February 2024, this event took place from 4 to 9 pm at the youth centre in Paramaribo. See [here](#). This time, a missionary youth service was integrated into the event, which could be experienced live in the youth centre or followed online. See [here](#).
3. The Moravian Church in Estonia held a service in the wooden prayer house in Nabala on 11 February 2024. The blessed ministry of Eduard Väljata, who

- would have been 125 years old this year, was commemorated. His life and work were remembered through several stories.
4. As part of the project *Promoting Inclusive Communities through Good Citizenship*, staff from the Moravian Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC recently held talks with municipal representatives from the city of Shuqba, west of Ramallah. See [here](#).
 5. Due to increasing drought, many rivers in Tanzania permanently carry too little water, which means that some hydropower plants can only generate half their capacity. This in turn has recently led to an increase in power outages lasting up to 24 hours and damaging the economy.
 6. The tourism industry in Tanzania reported growth of 37.5 per cent for 2023 compared to the previous year (which was still weak due to coronavirus).
Source: *Tanzania information from Mission One World* - [here](#).

Impressum

Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Badwasen 6 · 73087 Bad Boll · Deutschland

+49 (0)7164 9421-0 · info@herrnhuter-missionshilfe.de

Inhaltlich Verantwortlicher gemäß § 18 Abs. 2 MStV ist Niels Gärtner.

Responsible person according to § 18 Abs. 2 MStV is Niels Gärtner.

Alle durch die Nutzung des Newsletters anfallenden personenbezogenen Daten werden mit Hilfe unseres Service-Dienstleisters ausschließlich für den Versand des Newsletters genutzt. Eine Weitergabe an Dritte oder ein Verkauf von E-Mail-Adressen findet nicht statt.

All submitted personal data will be used exclusively for sending the newsletter. There will be no disclosure to third parties or selling of e-mail addresses.

Sollte Ihr E-Mail-Programm ihn nicht korrekt darstellen, können Sie [diesen Newsletter in Ihrem Browser anzeigen](#).

If your e-mail program does not display it correctly, you can [view this newsletter in your browser](#).

Sie erhalten diesen Newsletter, weil Sie sich beim Newsletter-Service auf unserer Website www.herrnhuter-missionshilfe.de mit %PERS_EMAIL% am %PERS_DATE% %PERS_TIME% angemeldet haben bzw. eine Anmeldung mit Wirkung zu diesem Zeitpunkt auf einem anderen Wege veranlasst haben.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have registered with the Newsletter-Service on our website www.herrnhuter-missionshilfe.de using %PERS_EMAIL% on %PERS_DATE% %PERS_TIME%.

Wenn Sie den "Herrnhuter Mission aktuell"-Newsletter nicht mehr erhalten möchten, klicken Sie bitte auf folgenden Link: [Newsletter abbestellen](#).

If you wish to unsubscribe from the "Herrnhuter Mission aktuell"-Newsletter click the following link: [Unsubscribe newsletter](#).

