



Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

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Star Mountain: Action plans formulated to implement the Disability Charter



The Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC of the worldwide Moravian Church near Ramallah (Palestine/West Bank) never tires of networking with other social work providers in order to help children and young people with disabilities develop as well as possible. Since the beginning of 2024, the centre has been holding talks with local authorities in the area and

making site visits. On Saturday, 20 April 2024, the cooperation reached a new, concrete phase. The management of Star Mountain had invited the staff responsible for rehabilitation from six small municipalities in the neighbourhood to put down on paper the action plans needed to implement the UN Disability Charter. See [here](#). This was preceded by the recent codification of a corresponding action plan with the administration of the city of Ramallah.

Star Mountain: Networking meeting with children's club providers



The Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC of the worldwide Moravian Church near Ramallah (Palestine, West Bank) recently continued its series of networking meetings with social work providers in the region. On 22 April 2024, the management team invited a number of representatives from communities and organisations that work with children in particular. This was done as part of the current

programme *Promoting inclusive communities through neighbourly civic cooperation*. They got to know each other personally, engaged in intensive professional dialogue

and made concrete plans with teachers and trainers from six local authorities and children's clubs: Beit Unia, Ni'lin, Qibya, Deir Abu Mishal, Kharbatha Al-Misbah and Beit Liqya. See [here](#). Star Mountain is now also looking for two experts to further develop its work.

New issue of "Unity Women's Voices" published



On April 2024, Julie Tomberlin, Winston-Salem/ NC, the head of the *Unity Women's Desk* (UWD), published a new issue of *Unity Women's Voices*. See in english [here](#). The theme of this newsletter is Serving together with our sisters in other denominations. After the first quarter of 2024, the UWD looks back on past events. Ten snapshots in the newsletter allow you to relive

how the World Day of Prayer 2024 and International Women's Day 2024 were celebrated in the various Unity provinces. Special attention is paid to the people at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC in times of crisis. The UWD is providing a scholarship to some young women with disabilities there. Finally, the newsletter provides an outlook on the *Fifth Unity Women's Consultation* (Website [here](#)) from 1 to 8 June 2025 at *Laurel Ridge Camp* (North Carolina).

Bishop's message from Augustine Joemath, South Africa



Augustine Joemath, South Africa, interprets the Bible passage 2 Peter 3:15+16a for his church members in English: "Always be ready to give an account for the hope that is in you to anyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, with gentleness and reverence." See [here](#). After a few introductory sentences, the bishop writes: "My first question when reflecting

on this text was: Are you also a person full of hope? Are you someone who inspires others with the spirit of hope that dwells within you? What is the hope that you have? I am so grateful for people who inspire others to bravely keep going despite reasons to the contrary. If fear or insecurity is driving you, then people will clearly feel it. In line with the text, we should find ways to gently radiate our hope. Our Lord Jesus Christ was not a man of physical violence or verbal attacks. We should adopt the gentle, patient, mild approach of Jesus in our dealings with the people around us.

It's still worth it today!"

Message of reconciliation to all Moravian Churches in Nicaragua



The bishops of the Unity Province of Nicaragua living in Nicaragua have spoken out about the divisions that have existed for a decade within the Moravian Church in the country. These divisions, which in some cases have already led to physical and structural violence, are based partly on differing political views and partly on ethnicity. The bishops call on the members of the Moravian Church to give a practical Christian witness to life by working for peace, reconciliation and true unity in the Unity Province of Nicaragua. The leaders of both

groups in the Unity Province of Nicaragua join the call of their bishops and ask those responsible in the congregations to pass on the attached text (see [here](#)) to the members in the various Moravian Churches through all information channels, including announcements in the weekly church services.

Sherida Franklin in Paramaribo developed new teaching material



Sherida Franklin, the kindergarten teacher at the Moravian Church's *Maria-Hartman-School* in Paramaribo, Suriname, recently developed her own teaching materials. She reported this to the Surinamese online magazine *De Ware Tijd* on 17 April 2024. See [here](#). The teacher said: "My main aim was to help children aged 4 to 10 with learning difficulties. But children in grades 6 and 7 can also use the materials very well. I have had

success with the material so far. The parents were speechless and emotionally moved because they hadn't expected their children to make such progress. During the Covid-19 pandemic, I had a lot of time and I often prayed to God. One day I was sitting in the garden with my mum. We were talking and I suddenly had voices in my ears and images in front of my eyes. That's how the material came about." An employee from the Ministry of Education has already been to Sherida Franklin's

office to test the material and observe the children learning.

Latina Bromfield-Robinson on the best list for the third time



In March 2024, Latina Bromfield-Robinson was on the Principal's Honour Roll of apprentices at *Bethlehem Moravian College* (BMC) in Malvern/St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, for the third year in a row. The student received an award for this unprecedented achievement from Claudene Blythe-Miles, Deputy Principal, at the *Annual Awards Ceremony* on 15 April 2024.

Congratulations to you! One photo each of the 2024 award [here](#), 2023 [here](#) and 2022 [here](#). Latina Bromfield-Robinson is preparing to become a teacher. Back in 2014, the BMC concluded a trilateral agreement with the *Teacher's Colleges of Jamaica* and the *University of the West Indies*, which authorises the BMC to independently award a Bachelor of Education degree. In November 2015, the first cohort of students achieved this degree.

Seminar for employees of the Tanzanian Southern Province



From 18 to 20 April 2024, around 30 employees from the Southern Province of the Moravian Church in Tanzania came together at *Lutengano Theological College*, founded in 1984, for a seminar aimed at further training and community development. Four pictures of the seminar room [here](#). The seminar was opened by Bishop Kenan Salim Panja. The seminar was

supported by *Mission 21*, the partner organisation of Herrnhuter Missionshilfe in Switzerland. It was led by the Chairman of the Southern Province, Ezekiel Andendekisye Mwasamboma, Rungwe. The Vice-Chairman, Jairy Sengo, and the Secretary General of the Province, Stephen Mwaipopo, were also involved in the leadership. The Tanzanian Southern Province, with its administrative centre in Rungwe, has over 150,000 members in the geographical districts of Kyela, Rungwe and Ileje and also carries out missions in the areas of Ruvuma, Njombe and Songea.

Interim results after three years of service in Tanzania



Three years ago, *Brødreminighedens Danske Mission*, the Danish sister organisation of Herrnhuter Missionshilfe, sent Mia and Michael Korsgård to Sikonge in Tanzania (Western Province). The two emissaries talk about these years in a new podcast. See [here](#). The couple are grateful that their work has helped to raise the level of training at the vocational training centre and the level of care at the district hospital. The

Vocational Training Centre in Sikonge, where Michael Korsgård is involved, mainly manufactures wooden products such as furniture, windows and doors. The hospital, which has a huge catchment area and where Mia Korsgård works as a consultant, treats around 30 outpatients every day and performs 20 operations every week. To the new info magazine of the mission organisation of the Moravian Church in Denmark [here](#).

Newsletter published by the School Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname



The School Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname has published the *Newsletter 1-2024* for its 1,200 employees at a total of 64 schools. See [here](#). In it, the director, Sandra A. Panka-Bijlhout, mentions that 36,150 Suriname dollars (EUR 450) have already been received for the foundation's new building and renovation fund.

A trainee, Christelle Cancoult, for whom the work at the two W.-S.-R.-Ritfeld schools was very rewarding and who sees the Foundation on the right track, is given the opportunity to speak. Reference is made to the need for a conscientious inventory of the furniture and all other teaching materials in the schools. Of course, financial matters are also discussed. Finally, Adrea Jubithana-Fernand and Daniella Wondel are introduced as new board members of the foundation, who were inaugurated by the Vice-President of the Moravian Church in Suriname, Mr Michael Persaud, and eight guests from the Netherlands, who spent a week at the school in Langatabiki, are mentioned.

Three news from Suriname



- The *Stichting Onderwijs* of the EBGs, the school foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname, is responsible for 65 primary, secondary and vocational schools. Many of these schools are getting on in years and need investment in the building fabric. The Moravian Church is therefore asking for donations for a special building and renovation fund. See [here](#).
- Following a successful pilot project in autumn 2023, doctors from the Dutch armed forces will once again be in Suriname in April 2024 to work with the Medical Mission in Suriname during an internship. After two introductory days in Paramaribo, this will again take place at the polyclinic in Brownsweg in the tropical rainforest of Suriname. See [here](#).
- To mark the 70th anniversary of the Moravian Church's youth centre in Paramaribo, 20 young people went on an evangelistic outreach in the city. They sang and prayed, blessed the sick and brought Jesus' message of hope. See [here](#).

Pray for the Moravian Church in Cuba



18 April 2024 was the annual day of prayer in the two North American Moravian Church provinces for the Moravian Church in Cuba, a missionary province of the Moravian Church. Among other things, they wanted Intercession for the congregation in Havana ("that we find a place where we can carry out all the activities of our congregation; that we have means of transport for our church; that there are new projects to finance our work"), for the congregation in Matanzas ("that we get drinking water filters for our households; that we are able to provide pastoral care in hospitals and prisons; that our students can complete their studies despite inflation"), for the Villa Clara congregation ("that God gives us leaders with integrity and a pastoral vocation; that we can fulfil our diaconal tasks") and for the Camagüey congregation ("that our community farm flourishes; that we live in ecumenical harmony"). Information on the Moravian Church in Cuba and many other prayer requests in english [here](#).

From the Moravian Church in Barbados and Tortola



- The *Calvary Moravian Women's Fellowship* staged Jesus' parable of the great supper (Luke 14:15-24) in their church in an impressive way. The depicted feast of the infirm, who accepted the host's invitation instead of those originally invited, culminated in a communal meal in the church. Many pictures [here](#).
- The *Sharon Moravian Church* had invited to a public testimony march through parts of Bridgetown on 3 March 2024, the commemoration day of the founding of Unity in the spring of 1457 in what is now the Czech Republic. See [hier](#).
- On 14 April 2024, a worship service for young and old took place at Mount Tabor Moravian Church. A photo [here](#).
The Calvary Young People's Society (young congregation) of Calvary Moravian Church invites you to a steel band concert as part of a local music festival for 27 April 2024 at 2pm. See [here](#).
- The Moravian Church on Tortola is holding its eighth Sisters' Conference in Baugher's Bay from 3 to 5 May 2024. Invitation [here](#).

Gold, copper and nickel finds near Hopedale in Labrador



Geological explorations that have been ongoing since 2020 have revealed that there are mineable gold, copper and nickel deposits in the ground in the hinterland of the former Moravian mission station Hopedale (Labrador). This has now been announced by *Labrador Gold Corp*. At the end of 2023, the company exercised the option to acquire 100 per cent of the four mining licences granted, which cover a total of almost 700 claims. The large Hopedale mining area extends over 43 kilometres along the Florence Lake Greenstone Belt. Roger Moss, President of Labrador Gold Corp, sees considerable potential for further major discoveries in the now contractually secured mining area. He thanked the Department of Natural Resources of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador for their financial support in the exploration of the concession area under the 2023 Junior Exploration Assistance Programme. More [here](#). It remains to be seen what the start of mining will mean for the highly sensitive Arctic environment and for the people in the Moravian Church of Hopedale.

"In Praise of Genadendal" - a poem by Thomas Pringle from 1824



The Herrnhut mission station Genadendal (first Baviaanskloof, then Gnadenthal), founded by the Moravian mason Georg Schmidt (1709-1785) 287 years ago, experienced its heyday in the 19th century. However, the place still retains some of its special charm and heritage today. It was the first place on the African continent where indigenous people of colour or blacks and white Europeans lived together in harmony

and free from exploitation. The Mission Museum of the Moravian Church in Genadendal recently commemorated this by publishing the entry of Thomas Pringle (1789-1834), a Scottish poet and campaigner for the emancipation of slaves, in the station's guest book from 1824. The poet stayed at Genadendal for many weeks as a result of a broken leg he had suffered while riding. He recorded the impressions he gained there for the rest of his life in an eight-line poem. See [here](#). Thomas Pringle was one of the first, most important and most vocal people to campaign for the abolition of slavery after his return to Britain from South Africa (fulfilled by his experience in Genadendal). He was the secretary of the anti-slavery movement in Britain. What a difference a riding accident can make.

In London, he met Mary Prince, a slave from the Caribbean who had been sold several times and suffered a difficult fate. He encouraged this slave to dictate her life story. The dictation became a book that went through many editions and shocked many British men and women. Like the work of Thomas Pringle, the book played a key role in promoting the abolition of slavery. Incidentally, the slave Mary Price also became acquainted with the Moravian Church in Antigua.

This is how a free Scotsman who had got to know the Moravian Church in Genadendal and an enslaved woman of African descent who had got to know the Moravian Church in Antigua met in London. And they co-operated and encouraged each other for the good of the wretched.

Wines from Elim, South Africa, increasingly popular

The South African online magazine news24 reported some time ago that the white wines produced near the Moravian Church Elim are becoming increasingly popular and have already won a number of awards. See [here](#). Although



the Elim Ward wine-growing region is considered the coldest wine-growing region in South Africa, the deep chalky soil with various slate and pebble deposits produces the fine *Ghost Corner Weine*. These wines are known as "maritime wines", which are characterised by cooling south-easterly breezes. The *Elim Mission* station was founded by Moravian missionaries

in 1824 very close to Cape Agulhas (Needle Cape), the southern tip of Africa, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Indian Ocean. The first service, held on 1 August 1824, was attended by 34 people, most of whom lived around the Vogelstruyskraal farm, including two slaves.

News in Brief

1. On 2 May 2024, Bethlehem Moravian College (BMC) in Malvern/St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, will host the "Valedictory Service" for trainees in their final year of training who are currently completing their examinations. To mark the occasion, some of the trainees made a short video statement. In it, they express what learning at the BMC means to them. "We are very proud of you!" is the opening line of the video. See [here](#).
2. In the *Moravian Messenger* (04-2024), the monthly magazine of the Moravian Church in Great Britain, Bishop Joachim Kreusel talks in an interview about his experiences in the South Asia Mission Province, which he describes as an important piece in the great Unity puzzle. A summarising report by Ondřej Halama on the current work of the Moravian Church in the Czech Republic (Seniorat), not least with refugees from Ukraine, is also included in the magazine. See [here](#): S. 44 + 48.
3. The *Moravian Mission School* in Leh/Ladakh, North India, is urgently looking for teachers for the subjects English and Maths. See [here](#). Perhaps there are retired teachers who would like to teach in northern India for a while?
4. The *Zeister Zendingsgenootschap*, the missionary organisation of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands, has already decided on the donation target for this year's mission festival in September. Donations will be made for vouchers to be given to needy schoolchildren in Suriname. The vouchers will enable the children to buy everything they need to go to school: school bags, school clothes, school books, exercise books and pens. See [here](#).
5. Snapshots from last year's bookbinding workshop at the Moravian Church Mission Museum in Genadendal, South Africa, can be found [here](#). The museum is using the snapshots to promote the next workshop of this kind to young and

old alike on the weekend of 24 to 26 April 2024.

6. Four children from the *International Kindergarten & Shristi Academy* of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu-Baneshwor tell in a few sentences in four short video clips why they attend this school and what they appreciate about it. You can see and hear them: Bibisha Pandey [here](#); Prisha Gyawali [here](#); Aadrika Kharel [here](#) and Aarya Shah [here](#).
7. The Cuba Foundation of the Moravian Church in North America (Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation) has now shared a video showing the extensive destruction in the home of a Cuban member of the Moravian Church caused by the hailstorm and subsequent flooding on 22 March 2024. The sister now barely owns anything usable. See [here](#). The foundation is calling for further donations for Cuba.
8. Immediately after a one-hour crash course in missions, which starts on 31 May 2024 at 5 pm in the youth centre, boys and girls from the Moravian Church in Suriname want to go on a missionary outreach ("Worship Outreach") through the streets of Paramaribo from 6 pm to 8 pm. See [here](#).
9. Under the leadership of Pastor Amini Shibanda, a youth choir has been formed in the Moravian Church Kikota (near Rungwe; Tanzania/Southern Province), which is promoting participation in the choir with a three-minute video clip. See [here](#).
10. In April 2024, the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Saint John's, Antigua, celebrated the 268th anniversary of its foundation. See [here](#).
11. On 20 April 2024, around 950 members of the Iglesia Morava de la Santa Trinidad gathered in Bilwi/Puerto Cabezas in eastern Nicaragua for the ordination of several people as deacons and presbyters. More than 100 pictures [here](#) and [here](#).

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