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Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

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Star Mountain: Normality in abnormal times



HMH employee Niels Gärtner has recently visited the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC near Ramallah, to get an idea of the situation there. He reports: "Everything is actually quite normal. Ramallah is a busy city as usual, the taxis are running, the shops are open and hoping for buyers. The teachers and children of the SMRC who live in this region can also reach the centre as usual. It is more difficult for children and young people who come from remote rural areas, which are often not part of the A-Zone. Here there are repeated checkpoints by the Israeli military and attacks of all kinds. Everything looks normal on the outside, but the souls and hearts are very

wounded. The violent images that flood into people's minds every day via television or mobile phone, the helplessness, the fear, the hopelessness, the economic hardship of many families - all of this has eaten deep into people's souls. And yet the SMRC is always a place of laughter and hope for the children and young people. This can be experienced every day thanks to the professional commitment of the staff. The SMRC needs our support in prayer and financially." A brief description of the situation can be found [here](#).

Women collected for children with disabilities in Palestine

There was a special surprise at the Moravian Church's mission festival in Christiansfeld, Denmark, on 5 May 2024. In the middle of the afternoon programme, two women from the



local Ecumenical Women's Committee came forward with a large cheque in their hands. The cheque was large in two aspects: it was large in size and it was for a considerable sum. The two women - Sissel Madsen and Kirsten Gubi - handed over 36,000 Danish kroner (4,830 euros) to the mission organisation of the Moravian Church in Denmark BDM, collected in March at

this year's World Day of Prayer. The money was intended for the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC near Ramallah/Palestine, an undertaking of the worldwide Unity. The SMRC can use the money to realise a dream. It wants to create an outdoor area where children and young people with disabilities can receive therapy in the fresh air and thus develop successfully. More [here](#).

Newsletter from Dr Jochen Tolk



In his latest newsletter, retired dean Dr Jochen Tolk once again reports on our work in Tanzania. Among other things, he writes about a school graduation ceremony in Tenende, the development of the vocational training centres in Chunya and Ilindi and a scholarship in Rungwe. Thanks to Dr Tolk's orphan projects/ scholarships, many needy people have been

able to receive support, help and education in recent years. We would like to thank all donors for their active support. You can find the complete newsletter [here](#).

Medical mission in Suriname in need



The *Women's Rights Centre Suriname* published a lengthy article by Henna Guicherit on 6 May 2024. It was entitled: "Basic health care for inland residents is not a priority". See [here](#) in Dutch. In it, Maureen van Dijk-Wijngaarde, Deputy Director of the Medical Mission in Suriname (*Medische Zending – Primary Health Care*), points out serious shortcomings in the

state healthcare system, which pose risks, especially for the people in the structurally weak tropical inland region. It complains, for example, about the lack of bindingly promised payments from the state, the extensive suspension of rescue flights, the

failure to carry out most maintenance and servicing work, major gaps in the school health programme, the lack of medicines and medical tests (e.g. pregnancy tests), the interruption of cold chains for medicines and the discontinuation of routine medical examinations in remote villages. "We don't want to leave anyone without care," says the deputy director.

Theresia Gali named "Nurse of the Year 2024"



The Surinamese newspaper *Star Nieuws* recently reported that Theresia Gali was named "Nurse of the Year 2024" by the Medical Mission in Suriname (*Medische Zending – Primary Health Care*) on 12 May 2024. This nomination prompted the editorial team to introduce the honouree in more detail. Theresia Gali comes from a landlocked country and she loves

working inland. She has been associated with the Medical Mission since she began her training in 2007, at the age of 29. She received her diploma in 2011. Fate has not always been kind to her. At the age of 13, she lost her mother, and later her father and brother. She found support in her Christian faith. She advises insecure young people: "If you have a goal in mind, then give 100 per cent. Don't compare your life with the lives of others. Life is not a competition. Always stay positive and above all: persevere!" More in German translation [here](#).

Pastoral visit to the Moravian Church in northern Brazil



Following her visit to the young Moravian Church in Bolivia on the first days of May 2024, Angelica Regalado-Cieza from the *Board of World Mission BWM* visited the equally young Moravian Church in the state of Bahia in the far north-east of Brazil. She reported on Facebook from Salvador (population 3 million): "I met with Pastor *Mauricio Melo* and his wife Jucineide and

was able to conduct church services and administer communion. I also met many families who are active in the *Igreja dos Irmãos Morávios* at a Brazilian potluck (everyone brings something), which also included Christian karaoke. Experiencing the energy and joy of the congregation in Salvador was something wonderful. The brothers and sisters have just moved to a larger room because the congregation has

grown so much. Our brothers and sisters in Brazil send warm greetings throughout the worldwide Moravian Church." Some pictures [here](#).

First steps towards establishing a Moravian Church in Bolivia



In the first week of May 2024, Angelica Regalado-Cieza from the *Board of World Mission* BWM of the Moravian Church in North America visited the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, to visit the gradually growing Moravian Church in Bolivia and to spend a lot of time with the new brothers and sisters. Bolivia had been declared a mission area under

development by the Unity Synod 2023 in South Africa. In addition to a meeting with Hans Frederiksen, who leads the church, Angelica Regalado-Cieza preached at a service and informed the congregation about the past and present of the worldwide Moravian Church and the work of the Moravian Church's Board of World Mission BWM. The discussions resulted in a vision for the future shape and tasks of the Moravian Church in Bolivia. Angelica Regalado-Cieza was asked again and again what it means to be a member of the Moravian Church. Some pictures of the visit [here](#).

The "Beaufort Moravian Church" in Westmoreland was built 190 years ago



The Jamaican daily newspaper *The Gleaner* published a lengthy article on 21 April 2024 to report on the 190th anniversary of the founding of the Beaufort Moravian Church in Westmoreland in the west of the island.

Reporter Paul H. Williams explains that the Moravian missionary Johann Heinrich Gottlob was the initiator of the church's construction

and his colleague Johann Adam Freibele was the congregation's first pastor. The church was built in 1834 in order to have an outpost away from existing mission stations to look after the former slaves working in Westmoreland. The British Crown's Emancipation Act of 1833 had stipulated that slavery was to end on 1 August 1834. The work of the Moravian Church in Jamaica dates back to December 1754, when the missionaries Zacharias Caries, Thomas Shallcross and Gottlieb Haberecht

came ashore on the Black River near St Elizabeth.

Picture wall in the youth centre of the Moravian Church in Suriname



The youth centre of the Moravian Church in Suriname, in a good location in the capital Paramaribo (Johan Raillardlaan 5-7), is partially surrounded by an unattractive concrete wall. To enhance this wall, it was recently decorated on the inside with lots of funny line drawings, inviting people to stand in front of it and be photographed in certain poses. On the youth centre's Facebook pages on 9 May 2024, the

message was: "Come and join us and stand in front of our picture wall!" Some young people have already responded to the invitation. The photographic result can be viewed in a series of pictures [here](#). The youth centre was established in the legal form of a foundation following donations and loan commitments between 1952 and 1954. Its [mission statement](#) includes the following sentence: "The centre aims to promote the physical, cultural, social and spiritual well-being of young people between the ages of 5 and 35 in Suriname."

Two news items from Suriname



- On 10 May 2024, the *Stichting Onderweij*s of the EBGs (School Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname) published a video on its Facebook page of another event called Anitri Singi Prisiri (The Lord's Praise and Praise) in the Great City Church in the provincial capital Paramaribo, where several groups of schoolchildren sang, some together and some individually. See [here](#).
- In Suriname, *the Day of the Nurse* was celebrated on Friday 10 May 2024. *The Medical Zending - Primery Health Care* (Medical Mission in Suriname), supported by the Moravian Church, joined the beautiful custom of paying special tribute to healthcare workers around 12 May, the birthday of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), the icon of modern nursing, like grateful people in many other countries around the world. A video of the ceremony in Paramaribo with songs, speeches and a snack [hier](#).

News from the Unity Province West Indies East



- On Mother's Day, 12 May 2024, all congregations in the Unity Province of the West Indies East commemorated the mothers present and the mothers in the world. They received thanks and veneration and were commended to [intercession](#). The Women's Circle of the *Nisky Moravian Church* on the island of St Thomas also

hosted a *Pre Mother's Day Praise Breakfast* at 8am the day before Mother's Day, featuring live music and a talk by Charlotte Amalie lawyer Everaud Potter. See [here](#).

- The mission work of the Moravian Church in the Caribbean was made famous by the Moravian missionary Christian Georg Andreas Oldendorp (1721-1787), who wrote a book that was read tens of thousands of times and translated several times: "History of the Mission of the Moravian Church on the Caribbean Islands of St Thomas, St Croix and St Jan". The Riksarchiv in Copenhagen has now introduced the missionary and his famous work on its website. See [here](#).

Cuba: Bishop's double visit for Mother's Day



The Cuba Foundation of the Moravian Church in North America (*Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation*) recently published a new information flyer in English. Siehe [here](#). Also new is a four-minute video on the front page of the foundation's website (see [here](#)) and a digital appeal for donations (see [here](#)). The video, which is accompanied by music, traces the

history and present of the Moravian Church in Cuba in words and pictures. On the occasion of the recent Mother's Day, the two bishops of the Moravian Church in Cuba, Armando Rogélio Rusindo and Obed Martinez, as well as the pastor Alay González, visited the current president of the church leadership, Tania Sanches, in her home. The latter wrote on Facebook: "What a gift to be able to receive such a distinguished visitor. It was a wonderful time in which we shared joy and looked back with gratitude. May the Lord continue to bless us." See [here](#).

Community Day in the Herrnhut Prayer Hall in the Riga Open-Air Museum



In the 18th and 19th centuries, there were around 200 simple, wooden prayer halls of the Moravian Church in what is now Latvia and Estonia, mainly in rural areas. Most of them were deliberately destroyed or repurposed during the communist era, or their location fell into collective oblivion as a result of the expulsion or even murder of the national elites.

Only around 10 per cent of the prayer halls have survived or been found again in recent years, and one prayer hall has been placed in the *Latvian Ethnographic Open-Air Museum* on the outskirts of Riga. To mark the 100th anniversary of this museum, a gathering of today's Moravian Church in Latvia took place on 11 May 2024 with praise and thanksgiving, songs and prayers, as well as stories and warm fellowship in the museum's prayer room. The motto was: "A day at home with us". Some pictures [here](#). Thanks were expressed to the many participants and helpers, especially the choir from Trikāta (east of Valmiera) for their beautiful singing. Video [here](#).

In Russian about the Moravians



Because there is a large Russian-speaking population in Latvia, especially in the Riga area, Latvian radio (*Latvijas Sabiedriskie Mediji*) also regularly broadcasts programmes in Russian. On 16 May 2024, one such Russian-language report entitled Gernguter (Herrnhuters - Moravian Church) was dedicated to the history of the Moravian Church in Latvia. Another such

contribution, an interview with Gundars Ceipe, pastor of the Moravian Church in Latvia, was focussed on the present. The contribution on 16 May 2024 in the Kulturnij Kod programme stated: "The Moravian Church played a major role in the development of Latvia. When the Moravians appeared in Latvia in the 18th century, ordinary people turned to them full of faith and hope. The Moravians made sure that Latvians truly embraced Christianity and won them over to education; they taught them to read and write." Many of the biographies of prominent Latvians state: " ... came from a Herrnhut family", " ... shared the views of the Herrnhuters". Read the text of the article in a summary in Russian [here](#). Listen to the article in Russian [here](#).

News in Brief

1. The *Trinity Moravian Church* on the small island of Tortola (Unity Province of the West Indies East) hosted its annual Sisters' Day on Sunday, 5 May 2024. The day, which included a church service and speeches, honours and a bazaar, singing and a communal lunch, was held under the motto *We are better, not bitter*. Some pictures [here](#).
2. The *Spring Gardens Moravian Church*, the *Gracefield Moravian Church* and the *Bethany Moravian Church* auf der Insel Antigua, on the island of Antigua, Unity Province West Indies East, jointly invite you to a multi-day sister conference over the Pentecost weekend: 15 to 20 May 2024, starting in the evening at 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday all day. Theme: *Be steadfast*. See [here](#).
3. On the weekend of 27/28 April 2024, a synod of the Southern District of the Moravian Church took place in the *Iglesia Morava de Sheran* in Sandy Bay, Nicaragua. A video [here](#). Many pictures [here](#).
4. The Moravian Church *Pniël* in agricultural Wageningen in the north-west of Suriname (Nickerie district) celebrated the 55th anniversary of the consecration of its church on 21 April 2024. Some pictures of the festivities [here](#). A video from the children's choir [here](#). The name of the congregation is reminiscent of the biblical place Pnuël on the Jabbok, where Jacob wrestled with God.
5. The *John Hus Choir* of the Moravian Church in Kyela (population 50,000) in south-west Tanzania is embarking on a concert tour to Mikumi and Dar es Salaam. The trip will begin on 29 May 2024 and will be financed by advertisements for commercial companies that will be placed on social media, posters, banners and videos around the individual choir performances. See [here](#). Official video presenting the choir [here](#).
6. The *Teofilo Kisanji University* of the Moravian Church in Mbeya has published the current tuition fees (costs per calendar year) on its website. See [here](#). As far as theology is concerned, Tsh 500,000/year (EUR 180) is required to obtain a Certificate or Diploma degree, Tsh 600,000/year (EUR 215) to obtain a Bachelor's degree and Tsh 3,200,000/year (EUR 1,250) to obtain a Master's degree.
7. Pascal Benimana, Bishop of the Moravian Church in Burundi, has called the congregations to a week of prayer for his country. Prayer is to be offered from Monday 13 May to Pentecost Sunday, 19 May 2024, because Burundi is currently in particular need of intercession. Click [here](#) for the complete call to prayer. A four-minute TV report from the recent episcopal consecration of Pascal Benimana in Bujumbura [here](#).

8. South Africa has been a rugby nation for 120 years. In 1993, the rainbow nation liberated from apartheid became Rugby World Champions for the first time. In 2007, 2019 and 2023, the world title was once again brought to the country. The Moravian Church capital, Genadendal, also played successfully. There were several teams with the following names: United, West Rangers, Happy Hearts, Pioneers and Bluebirds. See [here](#).

Impressum

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