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Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Ausgabe 2024-11 vom 06. Juni 2024

Women's project 'Walani' now on Instagram



Empowering Women, Creating Tomorrow - This is the motto of the *Walani* women's project in Malawi. Together with the project partner *MOHDEVS* and the trainees, a new Instagram account was launched on 1 June 2024. The content comes directly from a newly founded social media team at the school and is intended to show the girls' everyday life during school hours as well as in their free time. The channel will also provide project information and facts about Malawi. A logo has also been designed for the project. The young women are highly

motivated and, together with the Moravian Church in Malawi and Herrnhuter Missionshilfe, are looking forward to every new follower. To the Instagram channel [here](#).

Japanese visit on the Star Mountain



The *Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC* near Ramallah (Palestine/West Bank) welcomed several employees of the Japanese foundation *Children Without Borders* on Monday, 27 May 2024. They were accompanied by young people from the working regions of Jericho and the Jordan Valley, around 1,000 metres below. The guests learned about the work of the support centre, which was founded in 1980,

during a lecture and a tour of the extensive grounds. They also took part in a workshop led by Abeer Hamad, which focussed on how to deal with people with disabilities and their inalienable rights. During their tour, the guests also came into

direct contact with the children and young people who receive the best possible support in the inclusive kindergarten, the special school, vocational support and various special programmes (physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, art therapy, sports therapy, acrobatics, traditional dance Dabkeh, theatre, psychosocial support). A photo [here](#).

WCC book donation for TEKU in Tanzania



The World Council of Churches (WCC) recently donated many books for theology students at the Moravian Church's *Teofilo Kisanji University (TEKU)* in Tanzania. The university is located in the city of Mbeya, was founded in 2006 and has around 2,000 students, 60 of whom are studying theology. The Moravian Church in Switzerland will finance the shipment of the books to Tanzania. Pastor Volker Schulz, a bishop of the worldwide Moravian Church, expressed his heartfelt thanks to the WCC. Frieder Vollprecht, pastor of the Moravian Church in Basel and Bern, expressed his hope that the books would 'do a good service for the students' and provide not only education but also 'a broader view of the ecumenical world'. Pastor Dr Mikie Roberts, Geneva, WCC programme director for spiritual life and also pastor of the Moravian Church, sees the book donation as a contribution to the current ecumenical pilgrimage. More in German translation [here](#).

From the Labrador Synod



Synod 2024 was recently held in the Labrador Mission Province of the worldwide Moravian Church. The synod members gathered in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Despite a late start to the Synod due to bad weather on the coast and cancelled flight connections, Synod delegates were able to complete their work on 25 May 2024 as planned. Sarah Jensen was re-elected as chair of the church leadership. The *Board of World Mission* was represented at the synod by Chris Giesler, Director of Practical Missions. He led workshops on the history of the Moravian Church and the *Moravian Guide for Biblical Interpretation*. The Labrador Mission Province currently only includes (from north to south) the four small, mostly very remote congregations of

Nain, Hopedale, Makkovik and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Two pictures from the synod [here](#).

Greeting by Bishop Armando Rusindo from Cuba



On 25 May 2024, the 27th anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church in Cuba in 1997, Armando Rusindo, the first bishop of the worldwide Moravian Church to come from Cuba, addressed a greeting to the members of the Moravian Church in Cuba. See in English [here](#). In the greeting, he recalls the small size of the Moravian Congregations in Cuba in the early years and the challenges that had to be

overcome in building up the church. He then writes: 'We were able to achieve important successes and set our goals ever higher. Now there is a real Moravian Church on Cuban soil. The Lord has helped us up to this point. But the passion and dedication of many brothers and sisters who have put their talents, their strength and also their sacrifices at the service of this work have also been important.' He then greeted everyone who felt connected to his church. Here is a [video](#) and some [pictures](#) of the recent dispatch of relief supplies by large container from the USA to Cuba and of the distribution of relief supplies in the Cuban congregations ('We are not only addressing physical hunger but also spreading the love of Jesus').

Emergency Aid for Cuba arrives



After heavy rainfall and hailstorms caused considerable destruction in parts of Cuba on 22 March 2024, resulting in crop losses, several fundraising campaigns were launched, particularly in the USA. The Cuba Foundation of the Moravian Church in North America (*Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation*) has now posted the following information on Facebook: "We are sincerely grateful for the continued financial

support and prayers you have given us in connection with the *Container of Hope Programme*. The first container, destined for the Cuban Council of Churches, has already arrived in Havana. The food and other relief supplies inside have already been distributed." Contents of the container: 20,000 pounds of rice, beans and oatmeal; clothing; medical supplies; wheelchairs; agricultural supplies; three water

treatment systems. The next container with relief supplies (value: 25,000 to 40,000 US dollars) is due to follow soon. Further donations are welcome and needed. More on Facebook [here](#).

Third newsletter by Lydia Hans from Tanzania



In her third newsletter from Chimala-Brandt in south-west Tanzania, Lydia Hans, a young volunteer, reports on her everyday life at school and kindergarten, but also on highlights such as a mid-term seminar together with many other volunteers from Tanzania and East Africa, an Easter youth meeting with more than 1,000 participants and visits from family members and friends. She writes that her work at the Lutheran mission station of the *Ushirika wa Upendo* (Community of Love) sisterhood has already given her a great deal of general confidence and language skills and that she recently acquired two baby dogs and a vegetable field. Lydia Hans talks about excursions into the beautiful countryside, about playing the trombone for the first time in many months, about her educational experiments in the classroom (including German) and about her endeavours to bring more ecological thinking into the station with the support of the management. To the complete newsletter [here](#).

BWM representative at special meeting of the Church World Service



Justin Rabbach and Chris Giesler from the *Board of World Mission BWM* and Betsy Miller, Ecumenical Representative for the North American Northern Province, recently attended a *Church World Service* (CWS) membership meeting in Chicago. This was a special meeting of CWS member organisations to vote on changes to the membership model. The new model, which was unanimously approved by those present, opens up new opportunities for the CWS to work together and take public action, particularly in the field of global development promotion. The Moravian Church is grateful for the resources that the CWS makes available to its member organisations so that they can strive for contemporary mission in a concrete way and cooperate in the best possible way. Some pictures from Chicago

[here.](#)

Brass players from South Africa prepare European tour



Back in 2015, the *Christian Gregor School of Music* was founded in the north of Port Elizabeth, now Gqeberha, by Moravian Church music teacher Tyrone Hitzeroth - also with donations from the Moravian Church in Germany and the Netherlands. The school, which is still significantly influenced by the Moravian Church today, offers lessons in brass and woodwind instruments, guitar, piano, organ and percussion instruments. A brass ensemble from the school is now preparing for a European tour in June/July 2024, which is financially supported

by the South African Ministry of Sport, Arts and Culture. The tour programme has already been performed at the Church of Peace in Springfield on 24 May 2024. See [here](#). The poster shows that the ensemble will soon be performing in the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Germany. A concert is planned for Wednesday, 3 July 2024, at 7.30 pm in Church of the Moravian Congregation Niesky. 24 hours later, the same programme will be performed again in Church in Herrnhut. Admission is free. Donations for the brass tour are requested. The purpose of the trip is to draw attention to the great successes (including social advancement) of the music school.

From the Ukraine work of the Cottbus "Haltestelle"



Since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the Cottbus *Haltestelle*, a social and family education organisation of the Moravian Church, has been committed to helping refugees from Ukraine, especially those without church ties or on the fringes of the church. This is reflected once again in the 81st Haltestelle newsletter from

June 2024, see [here](#). The Haltestelle has been offering language courses for two years, which was recently celebrated with words of thanks, gifts and a sweet table with a giant cake. Initially, 100 children attended these language courses, the first to

be offered in Cottbus. There are also stories of Ukrainian men working on the grounds of the bus stop. During this assignment, the old wire mesh fence around the inner-city site, which had become overgrown with hedges, was dismantled and a new fence was erected, and clean-up work was carried out.

Donation for the restoration of a "first painting"?



The so-called Firstfruits paintings are among the most famous paintings of the Moravian Church. They show in striking size and in their national costume those baptised Indians who were the first to go home to their Saviour. Four of the ten proven first-baptised paintings are still preserved today. The oldest and largest is in the small hall of the Moravian Church in Zeist/NL, another in the side wing of the church hall in

Moravian Church and one in Bethlehem/PA. **The fourth copy, which is in great need of restoration**, now hangs in the reading room of the university archive in Herrnhut. Like the other first paintings, it dates from the middle of the 18th century. In contrast to the other three pictures, which were painted by Johann Valentin Haidt (1700-1780), this work was executed by Abraham Louis Brandt (1717-1797). It is in poor condition, the canvas has flaws and needs to be stretched again; the surface is yellowed and the paint layer is fragile. The painting is now to be restored by an experienced restorer for 11,000 euros. Who can donate to this cause? See [here](#).

News in Brief

1. *Bethlehem Moravian College* in Malvern/St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, shares pictures of two highlights in school life. On 19 May 2024 was the *Old School Day 2024* (reunion of former trainees). Some pictures [here](#). And AM 21 May 2024 was the annual *Research Day*, on which innovative ideas were presented: 55 images [here](#).
2. At the *Moravian Institute* in Rajpur near Dehradun, North India, a Smart Media Room computer lab for 4th to 10th grade students, donated by former graduates, was recently inaugurated: [here](#).
3. Several Moravian Church provinces have been contributing to the funding of the worldwide Moravian Church support centre on the Star Mountain near Ramallah (Palestine/West Bank) for years, as has the mission organisation of the Moravian Church in Denmark. It recently published an article about the

work and the particular challenges of the centre during the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The article also mentions the recent visit of Niels Gärtner, board member of Herrnhuter Missionshilfe, to the Star Mountain. He is quoted as saying: "The Palestinians no longer feel like human beings, but like a toy of the superpowers." More in Danish [here](#).

4. As part of its *Zaterdag braderie* (Saturday fun), which takes place on the first Saturday of every month, the youth centre of the Moravian Church in Paramaribo, Suriname, hosted a special children's event called Ondernemersdag on 5 May 2024. This was a day during which children could be creative or otherwise occupied in various ways. A few film impressions - accompanied by music - [here](#).
5. The students at the *Moravian Institute* in Rajpur near Dehradun are still very excited about their new digital classroom. Here, teachers Abhash Tripathi and Shivani Kothiyal explain how to use various programmes and applications. A few weeks ago, the Moravian Church in Binnakandi in the north-eastern Indian state of Assam celebrated its Easter service with a lot of modern technology. A photo from the worship room [here](#).
6. The Moravian Church's ever-growing International *Kindergarten & Shristi Academy in Kathmandu-Baneshwor*, Nepal, also offers swimming lessons for the little ones and the slightly older ones. A few pictures [here](#).
7. On Sunday, 2 June 2024, Robert Pangani Wakati will be ordained a bishop of the worldwide Moravian Church on the grounds of the Moravian Church's *Teofilo Kisanji University* in Mbeya, Tanzania. From Europe, Bishops Joachim Kreusel (Ockbrook/GB) and Volker Schulz (Basel/CH) as well as Jørgen Bøytler (Christiansfeld/DK), the Unity Board Administrator, will take part in the festive ordination. The Herrnhut radio station *Radia Baraka* recently introduced the future bishop. See [here](#).
8. At the beginning of the summer solstice month of June, the members of the Moravian Church in Riga are also invited to a church night with music in the *Rīgas Evanģēliski luteriskā Misiones baznīca* on Saturday, 1 July 2024. See [here](#). The church is open from 6pm to midnight.
9. The Moravian Church in Suriname has also recognised domestic violence as an issue that the churches need to address. For this reason, an information evening on the topic of *No naki ma taki!* (Don't hit, talk!) will take place on 8 June 2024 from 6 pm in the Wanika Church in Paramaribo, where prominent personalities will speak. The focus will be on prevention against domestic violence. Poster [here](#).
10. On 2 June 2024, the newsletter of the British Unity Province from the Moravian Church in Haflong in the north-east Indian state of Assam read: 'Please pray for us. The church of our congregation has been badly damaged again after recent heavy rains and a landslide.' Three pictures [here](#).

Impressum

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