



Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Ausgabe 2025-05 vom 13. März 2025

New training year in the women's sewing project at Dzaleka Camp



The *Women Empowerment Tailoring Project* offers disadvantaged women from the *Dzaleka* refugee camp and the surrounding community the opportunity to receive basic training in tailoring and design. Currently, 24 women are taking part again - 12 experienced seamstresses who were already trained last year and 12 new trainees. Together they produce school uniforms and other items of clothing to create an economic

basis for themselves and their families. Last year, more than 120 uniforms were distributed to schoolchildren. Rising inflation remains a challenge, making the cost of materials and machinery considerably more expensive. In order to make the project sustainable in the long term, we are looking into whether parents can make a small contribution towards the cost of materials. In addition, graduates of our AWTC women center will also be involved in training new participants in the future.

Focus on mental health - “Mental Health Training” at the Walani Women Center



In recent weeks, the *Walani Women Center* has held several days of training to promote mental health. Trainees and employees learned practical strategies for stress management and resilience in order to better cope with the often turbulent everyday life in Malawi. A particular focus was on dealing with the traumatic experiences that many refugees have to live with, as well as practical approaches to better

cope with everyday life. In view of the challenging living conditions on site, it is

essential that the trainees also remain mentally strong - an important building block for sustainable success.

Completion of a major funding measure at Star Mountain



On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, the final event of the project “Promoting inclusivity in congregations through civic engagement”, which was carried out over several months, took place at the Rehabilitation Center of the worldwide Moravian Church at Star Mountain near Ramallah (Palestine/West Bank). The focus of the project, which was carried out in many

locations around Ramallah, was on public schools, children's clubs, self-help groups and local authorities, each of which take care of people with disabilities and their families in different ways. They received advice, guidance, practical help and supervision in lectures and various exercises. For the children and young people with disabilities, there were medical check-ups as well as a range of games, sports and other leisure activities. Star Mountain would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of this event, which makes an inclusive society possible. 21 pictures [here](#).

The “Unity Women's Desk” introduces: Zilpa from Tanzania



The *Unity Women's Desk*, headquartered in Winston-Salem, NC, posted the following on Facebook on March 3, 2025: “In 2024, we were able to distribute over \$73,000 worth of scholarships to the worldwide Moravian Church. One of the most recent scholarship recipients was Zilpa from Tanzania, who earned a Masters in Education from [Uganda Christian University](#) We

wish Zilpa that she gets a job in her profession. She has worked so hard for her degree. The university scholarships we provide are currently capped at \$1,000 per year per student, which used to cover most tuition costs in many provinces. With rising costs around the world, we will need to increase this amount so that girls and women can study without family support. We also provide scholarships to the USA and the Caribbean, where tuition fees are much higher. We thank all our generous

donors who are helping to improve the lives of countless people inside and outside the Moravian Church by enabling women to become teachers, doctors, lawyers, administrators or pastors.” A photo of Zilpa [here](#).

Young volunteer Hanna Isterheld from Herrnhut sends greetings from Mamasa



Hanna Isterheld, a teenager from Herrnhut, is currently spending a year volunteering with the Ecumenical Volunteer Program of the *Evangelical Mission in Solidarity* in a kindergarten in Mamasa, a small town surrounded by densely forested high mountains on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. She published her third newsletter on February 20, 2025. See [here](#). The

accompanying letter reads: “Over the last two months, I have used the time to explore the country and its many islands. Sometimes I traveled alone, sometimes with my two fellow volunteers and sometimes with my new Indonesian friends from Mamasa. I am very grateful to have so many hospitable and helpful people around me and couldn't be happier right now. Halfway through my voluntary service, an interim seminar was held in Kalimantan/Borneo to evaluate my assignment. In four months - in July - I'll be heading back home.”

The “Board of World Mission” and its infant feeding program in Honduras



On March 4, 2025, this year's Moravian Day of Giving, the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America presented the infant feeding program it has been supporting since the beginning of 2020 in the underdeveloped Honduran region of La Mosquitia. This program is based at three locations: in Ahuas, in Krupunta and in Barra

Patuca. The program provides between 100 and 150 infants and young children with healthy food every day. In addition, to tackle the problem of malnutrition, the Clinica Evangelica Morava in Ahuas offers weekly maternity and pregnancy consultations as part of its preventative health work. In addition, the clinic has set itself the task of training midwives in remote villages, visiting schools and holding all-day health courses in some places. It costs around one US dollar a day to feed an infant or

toddler in south-eastern Honduras. A two and a half minute video on the program [here](#).

Daniël Claas introduced, an employee of the Zeister Missionary Society



The *Zeister Zendingsgenootschap*, the missionary society of the Moravian Church in the Netherlands, has started introducing its employees on Facebook. First, Daniël Claas, a journalist and communications specialist, was introduced on February 27, 2025. See in Dutch [here](#).

He answers five questions:

1) Who are you and what is your role in the organization? 2) What do you like best about your job? (Telling stories of people who are far away) 3) Have you experienced a special or funny moment during your service? (Admiration for poor people who draw their strength from faith) 4) If you had to describe your work in three words, what would they be? (No two days are the same) What do you do with your family in your free time? (I play the piano, I sing and I act. I like to read, I watch series and I like to cook).

Intercessionists from the Unity Province of Northern Tanzania



The Unity Province of Northern Tanzania with its administrative center in Arusha has only been in existence for just under 20 years. The province has a special partnership with the Moravian Church in North America. Their Board of World Mission sent the following intercessory requests from Arusha on March 6, 2025: "1. Pray for the evangelization work that is being done on a

large scale in our Province. 2. Pray for the economic stabilization of our province, which is a great challenge 3. Pray for unity within our Province 4. Pray for the revision of our Church Order, which we have set ourselves for November 2025. 5. Our Province has not succeeded in electing a bishop with the required majority in November 2023. Lack of funds for a new synod with a new election attempt is a challenge. Pray for us that we can solve the problem." See [here](#).

Study day “Agriculture in Tanzania” at three locations and online



Interested parties can register [here](#) for a study day on agriculture in Tanzania on Saturday, 5 April 2025, from 10 am to 4.30 pm - organized by Tanzania Network e. V.. Participation is possible online. You can also take part physically: either in Munich, Cologne or Leipzig. More information about the study day [here](#) (in German) and [here](#) (in English). The invitation flyer states: “The

agricultural sector is of central economic and social importance in Tanzania: it accounts for 28 percent of GDP and employs around 60 percent of the Tanzanian population. However, climate change is jeopardizing the livelihoods of farmers and the country's food security. In this event, we will take a look at the topics of smallholder agriculture and large-scale projects, shed light on the agricultural policy of the last two decades and present Tanzanian solutions.”

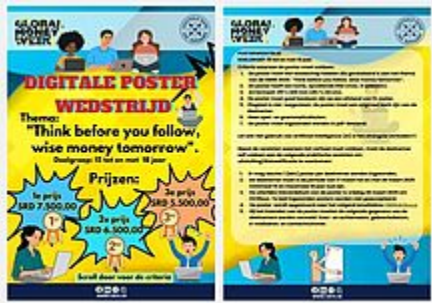
250 years ago: Construction of the church hall in Bambey, Suriname, on February 12, 1775



On February 12, 2025, 250 years ago, deep in the Surinamese rainforest of Suriname, the first church hall of the Moravian Church was consecrated in the Marrons settlement of Bambey. The missionary Johann Andreas Riemer (1750-1786), who came from the village of Wespen near Gnadau, describes this settlement in his diary and his travelogue printed in 1801.

See in Dutch [here](#). Maroons were slaves of African descent living in the jungle who had fled from the plantations further north and had come to terms with the indigenous population. Under so-called granmans (great men, chiefs), they had armed themselves, successfully resisted the Dutch colonial rulers and wrested a peace treaty from them in 1760. The leader of the Saramacca Marrons was the famous Chief Johannes Arabini, also known as Alabi (1743-1820), the first person to be baptized by the Herrnhut Mission in Suriname on 6 January 1771. There is an extensive study (450 pages) on Johannes Arabini, who belonged to the Yoruba people in West Africa: *Alabi's World*. See [here](#).

Two school competitions in Suriname organized by the Landeszentralbank



The *School Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname* has called on the primary and secondary schools under its auspices to take part in two competitions for students aged between 15 and 18, which the *Centrale Bank van Suriname* has called for during *Global Money Week* from March 17 to 23, 2025. The week aims to raise global awareness of the importance of financial education for young people. The bank

is offering cash prizes of 7,500, 6,500 and 5,500 Suriname dollars (200, 175 and 150 euros) to the winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. All students who take part in the competition should either write a 1,500-word essay on the topic: Think before you follow - wise money tomorrow or they should create a digital A3 poster on the aforementioned topic. For the exact conditions click [here](#) and [here](#).

Moravian Church signs “Ash Wednesday Declaration”



The Provincial Elders' Conferences (church leaders) of the Unity Provinces of North America-North and North America-South signed an *Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Declaration of the Church World Service (CWS)* on March 4, 2025. The declaration is entitled: *Defending Refuge* (German: Hände weg von den Zufluchtsstätten!). By signing the statement, religious leaders and organizations pledge to

oppose policies that endanger refugees and immigrants. At a time when the United States is facing important decisions regarding its treatment of displaced and persecuted people, the declaration is a powerful, collective vote for justice. All people of faith are called to be guided by Scripture and to remember that the identity of the United States is historically inextricably linked to its immigration history. Press release [here](#). The text of the statement (including the signatory organizations to date) [here](#).

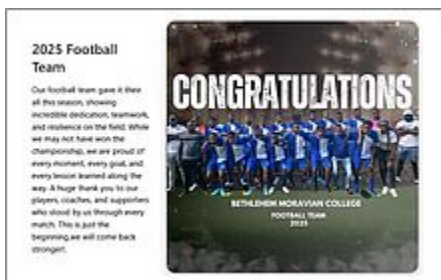
Reflection on synodal reconciliation resolution has begun



In many white congregations and congregations of color in the Unity Province of North America North, but also in the provinces of Alaska, Labrador and North America South (including immigrant congregations), consideration is currently being given to the implementation of a resolution passed by the Synod of the Unity Province of North America North as early as

2023: Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius and Initial Steps Towards Reconciliation and Healing of the Church's Relationships with Indigenous Peoples (Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and No Man's Land and Initial Steps Towards Reconciliation and Healing of the Moravian Church's Relationships in North America with Indigenous Peoples). PDF with the text of the resolution in English [here](#). Three ZOOM lectures from December 2024 on the topic [here](#). The marginalized indigenous members of the Moravian Church in North America have long been waiting for symbolic gestures from white Americans, for fraternal bridge-building and also for material reparations for injustices suffered in the past.

Recognition for the soccer players of “Bethlehem Moravian College”



Although the soccer team from *Bethlehem Moravian College* BMC) in Malvern/St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, came away empty-handed from the 2024 national college championships, the 20 players received respect online. The BMC website states: “Our soccer team gave it their all last season and showed incredible dedication, teamwork and resilience on the field. Even

though we didn't win the championship, we are proud of every moment, every goal and every training session where we learned something. A big thank you to our players and coaches and to all the fans who stood by us in every game. This is just the beginning. We will come back stronger in 2025!” An approximately 20-minute promotional video from BMC showing the large campus and its buildings, as well as some of the college's faculty and trainees, [here](#).

Vicariate for Dr. Devandr  Boonzaaier has begun



For the second time this year, a graduate of the Moravian Theological Center in Cape Town-Heideveld has been accepted as a vicar (student minister) in the Moravian Church in South Africa. Dr. Devandr  Boonzaaier will be working in the Kuils River Moravian Church in the east of Cape Town from February 2025. Martin Abrahams, former President of the Moravian Church in

South Africa, will serve as his Vicar. He replaced Bishop Jerome Slamet, who had previously served in the *Kuils River Moravian Church*. All these changes took place in the service on February 9, 2025, in which Devandr  Boonzaaier preached his first sermon on the text Mark 4:35-41 ("The Stilling of the Storm"). The vicar was accompanied on this special day by his family and the parish brass choir. On Facebook it said: "We see God's faithfulness in the continuous influx of new pastors to the Moravian Church. May God continue to use Devandr  Boonzaaier in his vineyard for his glory." Eight pictures [here](#).

Contribution by Lorraine Shorten on the topic of "Racial Justice"



Lorraine Shorten is a Moravian Church minister in the British Unity Province, where she serves in two congregations: in the city of Bath and in the Somerset region. She is also the Province's Ecumenical Officer and a member of the Racial Justice Working Group of the organization Church Together in England (CTE). In a magazine published by CTE to mark Racial

Justice Sunday, which was celebrated across England on February 9, 2025, Lorraine Shorten wrote an article on "A feminist perspective in exploring the central issue of racial justice". See in English [here](#) (pp. 54-56). In the final section of the 82-page magazine, entitled *A Coat of Many Colors*, there are bibliographical references and pointers to further resources on the topic of racial justice. There has been a Racial Justice Sunday in England since 1995, when a racist murder of a black teenager took place.

Many deacon and presbyter ordinations in Honduras



On Sunday, February 9, 2025, in the Moravian Church in Honduras, seven men and two women were ordained as deacons and diaconal ministers in the church hall in Puerto Lempira and then four men were ordained as presbyters. The ceremony was presided over by Bishop Evelio Romero (Honduras) with the participation of Bishops Sandoval Martinez (Honduras) and

Rogelio Zacarias (Nicaragua) as well as numerous pastors of the Moravian Church from all over Honduras. One report read: "Jesus Christ, the General Elder of our Church, is good to us after so many struggles and trials we have had to go through. How wonderful it was to see the 'Iglesia Morava en Honduras' reunited. This is God's will. May HE bless the church and its bishops, presbyters and deacons." Videos [here](#) and [here](#). Pictures and more videos [here](#).

The merits of the Moravian Church are commemorated in Valmiera



Valmiera (German: Wolmar) and the Valmiermuiza estate (German: Wolmarshof) were the cradle of the Moravian Church in Latvia, the first Moravian Church outside of Germany. Christian David came here in 1729, and just 13 years later 15,000 people in what was then Russian Latvia were under the influence of the Moravians. In 1736/37,

construction of the Moravian Church Jēra kalns (German: Lammsberg) began at the gates of Valmiera on the left bank of the Gauja. Exactly opposite this historical site, a public Herrnhut evening will take place on 18 March 2025 at 5.30 pm in the *Integrētajā bibliotēkā* of Valmiera under the title: "From the literacy of the peasants to the Latvian state". Gunadrs Ceipe, the leader of the Moravian Church in Latvia, and the actress Ilze Dauvarte, who will show photos from the family archive, will be present. Ilze Dauvarte's land-owning family in Vecdaudži was one of the biggest supporters of the Moravian Church in Latvia for generations. They later suffered greatly from the persecution during the Stalin era. For the event see [here](#).

Many confirmations in Rugombo and Bujumbura

On Sunday, February 23, 2025, there were confirmations in two places in the Moravian



Church in Burundi: in the morning in Rugombo (pictures [here](#)) and in the afternoon in Bujumbura (pictures [here](#)). Both confirmations were performed by Bishop Pascal Benimana. A brief report on the confirmation in Rugombo states: "The number of confirmands was 20. The festive service was marked by great joy for the members of the Rugombo congregation. They

received a visit from the bishop for the first time and were able to meet him in person. Out of gratitude, they presented him with gifts. Pascal Benimana encouraged the congregation to take further steps in building up the parish of Rugombo. They asked the bishop to pray for them so that they would soon find a plot of land for their own church in the town of Rugombo. At the moment, all of the congregation's services still have to take place in a rented church." There were six confirmations in Bujumbura this Sunday.

News in Brief

1. On February 23, 2025, Guyana's Republic Day, the pastor and members of the Queenstown Moravian Church congratulated the country's leadership and wished the country a promising future. They trust in God's guidance and mercy and ask for God's blessing. Read more [here](#).
2. The Moravian Church's health and hygiene project in the D. R. Congo - supported by the Moravian Church in Denmark - is now entering its third phase. More people than before are to learn about hygiene and health; more children than before are to have a good chance of coping with the difficult living conditions on the western shore of the huge Lake Tanganyika. More about the project in a longer report by Svend L øbner, Christiansfeld, in Danish [here](#).
3. On Sunday, February 9, 2025, theology student Richard de Doncker was inducted as Student Minister (a kind of vicar) of the Maitland Moravian Church, Western Cape, in the Moravian Church in South Africa under the Bible passage Philippians 1:6. Fiona de Doncker, the vicar's wife, the Maitland Moravian Brass Band, the church choir, the pastors Moselene Davids, Marika Abrahams, Judith Hansen and Dr. Jeremy Wyngaard, the director of the Moravian Theological Center in Cape Town-Heideveld, were present. 25 pictures [here](#).
4. [Here](#) are some pictures of a day full of activity and creativity on Saturday, February 24, 2025, at the Beit Lequia Children's Club, which was designed by several employees from the support center of the worldwide Moravian Church on the Star Mountain near Ramallah (Palestine/West Bank).

5. The churches in Estonia are encouraging people to register for a Pilgrimage of Persecution from June 6 to 14, 2025. A registration form, [video](#), It says: "The Estonian Pilgrimage of Persecution offers a unique opportunity to become part of the story of spiritual resistance, unwavering trust in God and the suffering of an entire nation. Among other things, participants in the pilgrimage will visit the places where Eenok Haamer (89), a member of the Moravian Church, hid in an underground bunker for four years during the communist era." At that time, the Moravian Church was banned in Estonia.
6. On Thursday, February 27, 2025, God called Eenok Haamer, the long-time head elder of the Moravian Church in Estonia, out of time and into eternity in Tallinn. He would have celebrated his 90th birthday in May 2025. The Moravian Church in Estonia looks back with gratitude on the work that Eenok Haamer was allowed to do for the kingdom of God. His funeral was on March 8, 2025 in Mustvee on Lake Peipus, 50 km north of Tartu. For the history of the Haamer family click [here](#).
7. Pictures from the prayer meeting of the Moravian Church in Agramonte near Jagüey Grande in Cuba on February 26, 2025 - posted by the church president Tania Sanches - can be found [here](#). A picture of the youth group of the Moravian Church Ebenezer in Santa Clara can be found [here](#). Pictures of the service of this congregation on Sunday, February 23, 2025 (with church coffee) can be found [here](#).
8. The Mission Museum of the Moravian Church in Genadendal gratefully informs that the digitization of the oldest handwritten diaries in Genadendal has recently been completed with the help of the Moravian Knowledge Network. Some pictures [here](#).
9. From February 24 to 28, 2025, a synod of the Alaska Moravian Church took place in Bethel/AK. The Sunday before the synod was celebrated in Bethel/AK as Singspiration Sunday.
10. The Moravian Church's support center on the Star Mountain near Ramallah (Palestine/West Bank) shares a post on its Facebook pages calling on all organizations to evacuate seriously injured, seriously ill and chronically ill people from the Gaza Strip and, if necessary, offer them therapy somewhere abroad. People with disabilities must be included in these programs. See [here](#).
11. On March 1, 2025, the day commemorating the founding of the old Bohemian-Moravian Moravian Church in Kunvald northeast of Žamberk in the spring of 1457 - 568 years ago - the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America published a world map listing the provinces. See [here](#).
12. A 50-minute presentation by Dr. Claire Summers (UK) entitled "Thoughts on a visit to the Moravian Church's Sikonge Hospital in Tanzania" has been posted online [here](#) by the Moravian Church's British Mission Board. In November 2024, the hospital celebrated its 100th anniversary. Dr. Claire Summers' visit

- took place in October 2023, 41 years after her first stay as a medical student.
13. On February 28, 2025, **Andris Vilks** a great friend of the Moravian Church in Latvia, died in Riga at the age of 67. He began his career in 1978 as a senior librarian in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Department of the Library of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, later becoming head of department and in 1989 director of the entire Latvian National Library (LNB), a position he held until 2024. The organization of the "Castle of Light", the avant-garde **Neubaus der LNB** completed in 2014, was close to his heart.
 14. Pictures of a day full of joy and conviviality at the *Beitunia Children's Club* west of Ramallah, organized by the staff of the support center of the worldwide Moravian Church on the Star Mountain (Palestine/West Bank), on March 4, 2025 can be found [here](#).
 15. Two schools of the Moravian Church at the foot of the Himalayas are currently advertising for applications for the 2025/26 academic year: the Moravian Institute in Rajpur near Dehradun (at the foot of the legendary Old Mussoorie Road) and the International Kindergarten & Shristi Acedemy in Kathmandu-Baneshwor, Nepal. See [here](#) and [here](#).
 16. On February 16, 2025, the service at the Calvary Moravian Church in Bridgetown, Barbados, said: "Congratulations to the newly appointed board members of the Calvary Young People's Society. Rev. Dr. Adrian Smith inducted the young people into office by drawing a cross on their foreheads. Pictures [here](#).

Impressum

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