



Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

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Annual conference of the Herrnhuter Missionshilfe



Around 50 members of Herrnhuter Missionshilfe (HMH) and several guests from various congregations accepted the invitation to attend this year's HMH annual meeting in Herrnhut. The focus was on moving reports from the partner regions of Malawi and Tanzania, which were impressively presented by Jonah Sinyangwe, Belinda Gondwe, and Edger Teacher. While the work with refugees is a

particular focus in Malawi, the projects in Tanzania—and especially in Zanzibar—concentrate on vocational training and income-generating measures. However, there is concern about global funding cuts, which are hitting Malawi particularly hard, but also the work on Star Mountain in Palestine. The election of the new HMH board was eagerly awaited. The following were elected: Niels Gärtner, Christiane Vollprecht, Rudolf Bausch, Damaris Enkelmann, Johann Waas, and Michael Gutekunst. In addition to the official program, there was also time for communal experiences: Guests were given a guided tour with information about the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Herrnhut, and in the evening, the Simsala Singers, the choir of the Herrnhut Diakonie, provided musical entertainment in the church hall. Further encounters – including with the Herrnhut congregation – will take place during tomorrow's church service.

From the 2025 general meeting of the Zeist Mission Society

On June 21, 2025, members of the Zeist Mission Society gathered in Zeist for an inspiring general meeting. The motto was: Have the courage to love. Pastor Stefan Bernhard opened the meeting with a thought-provoking devotional.



Important steps for the future were then discussed. The highlight of the meeting was the unanimous adoption of a new policy for the years 2026 to 2030. The policy focuses on human encounters, the promotion of contextual theology, and global cooperation. During the discussion of the 2024 annual report, there was room for reflection and conceptual

development. There was open discussion about the effectiveness of projects, financial responsibility, and power-free, equal cooperation. Niels Fischer was welcomed as a new member of the board, and Imelda Tjon Fo's membership was confirmed. Douwe van Barneveld and Johannes Welschen were bid farewell. The day ended with singing and a meal together. More information [here](#). Some pictures [here](#). The annual report in Dutch [here](#).

Youth center in Paramaribo forced to cancel Ketikoti festival



The youth center of the Moravian Church in Paramaribo, Suriname, has been forced to cancel the Ketikoti Festival planned for July 1, 2025, marking the 162nd anniversary of the abolition of slavery in 1863. The reason for this is rainfall in Suriname, which has caused parts of the capital and the youth center grounds to be flooded. For the corresponding announcement,

click [here](#). Thirty-five villages in the interior, with a population of about 12,000, are also struggling with severe flooding. See [here](#) and [here](#). Since March 2025, Suriname has received five times the average rainfall for the long-term average. As a result, a large amount of water is currently being released from a dam owned by a state-owned company to make room for new water. And it is precisely this opening of the floodgates that is now causing serious problems in many areas of the Brokopondo district, where people are now stranded in the middle of floodwaters.

Two Moravian Church congregations in Albania on an ecumenical tour

On June 21, 2025, sisters from the Tirana Brethren community visited the Roman Catholic Church Kisha e T'Shelbuemit Rubik in northern



Albania. This church was built in 1166 as part of a Benedictine monastery. In the 13th/14th century, Franciscans worked here. For centuries, the church has been the spiritual center of Catholics in Mirditë. The communists partially destroyed the church and used it as a warehouse. After 1990, it was restored. Now it is once again used for religious services. Pictures

[here](#). Sisters and children from the Bathore Brethren community, a satellite town north of Tirana, visited the Catholic Cathedral of St. Paul and the Orthodox Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Tirana on the same day. Although both cathedrals are modern churches, they differ in architectural style and tradition. Both communities survived the period of communist oppression and have been thriving again since the early 1990s. Pictures [here](#).

Excursion of women and children from the Moravian Church in Lezhe

On June 19, 2025, several women and children from the Moravian Church in Lezhe, Albania, visited the nearest church. In the quiet hills of Kallmeti stands the Catholic Church of St. Eufemia. Euphemia was a girl from Chalcedon who was martyred in the 3rd century AD because she refused to participate in local Roman pagan rituals. The church is a simple stone building, built into the rock in 1870. Father



Eltoni welcomed the group with an open heart and much love, making everyone feel welcome and blessed. His words and quiet presence reflected the warmth of a church that embraces every soul that knocks at its door. Everyone was very grateful and said that God is always good and faithful in all churches. Albania is a country where the Apostle Paul himself preached the Gospel in the first century, as he writes in Romans 15:19: "I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyria." Pictures [here](#).

Introducing: UWD scholarship recipient Ibenathi Bhaku

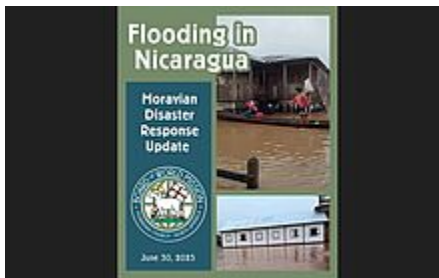
Once again, the Unity Women's Desk (UWD), based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is



introducing one of its scholarship recipients on Facebook: Ibenathi Bhaku from East London, South Africa: "Overcoming barriers and radiating grace is what Ibenathi Bhaku does. She is studying systems development in her home country. She believes that you can do three things at once: achieve technological excellence, be creative and beautiful, and remain rooted in your faith. In conversation with

a UWD intern in the US, she said: 'I am deeply grateful for being awarded a scholarship. It is helping me to expand my skills and prepare for a career in the technology industry. The current semester, in which I had to learn new computer languages and write challenging software, was a big challenge. Thank you for supporting young learners at UWD and sharing their life stories to inspire others.' More [here](#).

Severe flooding in eastern and southern Nicaragua



A few days ago, the leadership of the Unity Province of Nicaragua reported severe flooding in the east and south of the country. Several villages with Moravian Church communities have also been affected by the floods. The photo (see [here](#)) flooded Moravian church. There are also reports of fatalities, destroyed crops, and damage to private homes. Initial disaster relief

(food supplies, replacement of lost crops, assistance with reconstruction) is being provided by the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America, the sister organization of the Herrnhuter Missionshilfe. Although the storm is not yet classified as a tropical hurricane, it is carrying enormous amounts of water. It formed on June 26, 2025, off the coast of Venezuela and moved across eastern and southern Nicaragua two or three days later. A meteorological report can be found [here](#).

Visit from Bethesda (South Africa/Eastern Cape) to the Moravian Church in NRW

Christian Flöter from the [Moravian Church in Nordrhein-Westfalen](#) wrote in a circular email to his congregation members on July 2, 2025: "An important event in July is the visit of Sister



Nonkululeko Lupindo and Brother Desmond Sikhonje from our partner congregation Bethesda in South Africa. Unfortunately, their arrival was delayed due to the late approval of their visas. But now we can look forward to them staying with us in Germany from July 7 to 20, 2025. Our church program offers various opportunities to meet our two guests. In

addition to visits to Bielefeld (July 12, 3 p.m.), Hamm (July 13, 10 a.m.), Cologne (July 13 to 15) and Düsseldorf (July 16, 7 p.m.), the guests will also take a trip to Herrnhut, Dresden, and Kleinwelka, as well as a trip to Berlin." The Moravian Church in Nordrhein-Westfalen has been in a direct partnership with the remote Bethesda Moravian Church in South Africa for 30 years.

Women's sermon in the Moravian Church at the airport in Sumbawanga



June 22, 2025, was a day of great joy in the Moravian Church at the airport in Sumbawanga, Tanzania, Rukwa Province. Loud choir singing rang out in an overflowing church during a service lasting several hours, followed by an auction to raise funds for a new church building. On this Sunday, women were celebrated in the church and throughout the country. Pastor

Emeristo Ntangale therefore asked the assistant pastor, Helena Siame, to take over the sermon. For more than an hour, she preached on the Book of Esther, about a woman who saved her people from destruction through humility and wisdom. She emphasized that women should dare to speak their minds and act courageously, and that men should give women freedom and work together with them. Svend Løbner, public relations officer for the Herrnhut Mission in Denmark, is currently on a business trip to Kipili, Sumbawanga, and Mpanda in the Rukwa and Western provinces. Video [here](#).

Choir singing opens doors in Mpanda and the Katavi region

On June 30, 2025, the Moravian Church's mission organization in Denmark wrote on Facebook: "Choir singing opens doors. This was



experienced by some activists of the Moravian Church in Mpanda, Tanzania (Western Province). Peter Machibia, chairman of the Moravian Church in the entire Katavi region, which hopes to soon be recognized as a mission area of the worldwide Moravian Church, reported that eight new congregations have recently been established in and around Mpanda in western

Tanzania. When asked what makes the Moravian Church attractive to people, he replied that, in addition to the democratic church order, it is the church choir that appeals to the locals. Almost every weekday, one of the church choirs practices. One of the newly founded congregations has grown to 60 members and just as many children within a year. Everywhere in the Katavi area, you can feel it. The church here is not lacking in courage!" Video [here](#).

Experience in Kipili: “The patriarchal system is creaking at the seams”



Learning from the relationship stories in the Bible was the focus of another marriage seminar held by the Moravian Church in Kipili (Rukwa Province), Tanzania, which was attended by 30 married couples. The seminar was led by Janice and Mads Jakobsen, who were sent by the Moravian Church in Denmark. The seminar was very different from previous ones, where the

men walked ten meters ahead of their wives and men and women sat on opposite sides of the church. During the seminar breaks, many couples walked close together, talked to each other, and even touched each other. Good marriages strengthen not only the family but also the congregation, the missionaries said. The married couples learned that when the Bible says that woman was created from man's rib, it does not devalue women, because ribs hold the upper body together. Without ribs, no one can stand upright. Just as men cannot do without their rib cage, they cannot do without the skills of women. In Kipili, it became clear that the patriarchal structure is creaking. More in Danish [here](#).

Update from Michael and Cecilia Tesh on the Moravian Church in Kenya

Michael and Cecilia Tesh send greetings from



Kenya. They write in the magazine Onward (July 2025): It is the rainy season here in Kenya. We are planting corn and other crops. All the children are currently in school. They will be there until the first week of August 2025. Here is an update on the situation of the Moravian Church in Krenia. Pastor Samuel and I have been traveling to Ikutha every month since the

beginning of the year. In the first week of May, we were only there for three days. We had to talk to the pastors and tell them to focus on one congregation and strengthen it. We had noticed that there were many congregations but hardly any members. Now when we go there, we can devote our attention to one congregation. We plan to go to Ikutha for two weeks in June. We need to live with the people there for a longer period of time and pray with them. We will also visit schools and preach God's Word to the children.

Digital tool for school improvements in Suriname



The Moravian Church's school foundation in Suriname (Stichting Onderwijs der EBGs) has provided teachers at its 65 schools with a new digital tool via Facebook. See [here](#). The foundation writes: "All the tests taken by students provide a wealth of data. But how can this data be transformed into targeted educational action? How does a teacher get

from performance trend analysis to team discussions with other teachers? And how can schools ensure that key educational priorities are firmly anchored in the minds and hearts of all teachers?" A digital tool for quality control and quality assurance (Kwaliteitszorg: zicht op je onderwijs) is being introduced. The description states: "Discover how feedback from students, parents, and teachers can become a driving force for school development: with intelligent formats, context-oriented questionnaires, and understandable visualizations for practical use."

Without "Windrush," there would be no Moravian Church in Leicester

Without Windrush, there would be no Moravian Church in Leicester today. This was the consensus in Leicester on Sunday, June 22, 2025,



when more than 70 participants celebrated this year's Windrush Day with music, performances, and delicious Caribbean food. All of this brought the community members together in joy and reflection. Windrush Day marks the anniversary of the arrival of the passenger steamer Windrush in Great Britain on June 22, 1948, with the first 1,027 Caribbean immigrants. It provides

an opportunity across the country to recognize the contribution of Caribbean immigrants to Great Britain and also to the British churches, including the Moravian Church. Some impressions of Windrush Day in Leicester on June 22, 2025, can be found [here](#) (please scroll down). The cultural program was preceded by a contemplative church service. The Moravian Church says: Thank you!

The Unity Women's Desk introduces: Sunita Samdem Tamang



The Unity Women's Desk (UWD), based in Winston Salem, North Carolina, writes: "Meet Sunita Samden Tamang, one of the most successful UWD scholarship recipients. She lives in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, and is involved in various projects, including one run by the UWD. When Julie Tomberlin, the director of the UWD, met her a few months ago, Sunita

was delighted to tell her that she was the youngest graduate of the Leadership and Management course. Julie Tomberlin describes Sunita as an ambitious, hard-working, and absolutely reliable young woman who inspires others with her compassion and motivation. The UWD is proud of Sunita and all the other women and girls around the world who are pushing beyond their limits and making their presence felt in their respective societies. Their determination and commitment encourage the UWD and motivate the organization to continue fighting for a just and caring world. A photo can be found [here](#).

Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, commemorates Anna Maria Samuel

On June 19, 2025, the United States celebrated Juneteenth (short for June Nineteenth), a national holiday established in 2021 to



commemorate the liberation of the last enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas. The Moravian Church's Salem College in Winston Salem, North Carolina, used this day to commemorate the black woman Anna Maria Samuel. She was born into slavery in 1781 and lived with her parents Johann and Maria Samuel, who also worked as slaves for the Moravian

Church. The family lived in Bethabara and was a member of the church. Johann was the first to be baptized in the Moravian Church in Salem. Anna Maria was baptized at birth and grew up in the Moravian Church. At the age of 11, she joined the girls' choir in Salem. Later, she moved into the house for single sisters. With these sisters, she took part in the daily meetings of the sisters' choir and the congregation. Returning to Bethabara, she finally gained her freedom in 1797. More [here](#).

Since June 1, 2025, there has been a second Moravian Church in Brazil



The Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America announces: "On June 1, 2025, a group in Lauro de Freitas, just outside the city of Salvador, officially joined the Moravian Church in Brazil. This marks the founding of a second Moravian Church in the country. There was also a baptism during the founding celebration. On June 7, 2025, the

members gathered for a communion service, an hour marked by deep spiritual fellowship. On June 13, 2025, the members of the new Lauro de Freitas congregation met with the members of the Salvador congregation for coffee. It was a time of shared joy and encouragement. The relationship between the two congregations is expected to continue to grow and deepen. Pastor Mauricio Melo said, "We believe that God will do even greater things among us." Some pictures from the meeting room of the Moravian Church in Lauro de Freitas can be found [here](#).

The BMC in Jamaica provides information about study costs

The Bethlehem Moravian College in Malvern/St. Elizabeth, Jamaica (BMC) provides information on Facebook about the current costs of the individual courses offered by the institution. See [here](#) (please click left/right). It then emphasizes: "Do you think

that studying at our institution would be unaffordable for financial reasons? Think again! At Bethlehem Moravian College, we make higher education accessible to everyone. Our tuition fees for the first semester range from JMD 173,982 to JMD 195,000 (US\$1,100 to US\$1,200). This makes us one of the most affordable colleges in Jamaica, without compromising on quality. And you know what? You don't have to cover the cost of your studies alone. We can point you to several financial aid options (scholarships and lenders) that can help you make your dream a reality, such as the Burger King 2025 Scholarship Program. See [here](#).

260 years ago in Labrador: Mikak comes into contact with the Moravian Church



In the summer of 1765 – 260 years ago – Mikak, a married woman and mother from the Inuit people, came into contact with two Moravian missionaries, Jens Haven and Christian Drachart, who had been working for some time to establish a mission station in Labrador. When Mikak's husband was killed in a battle with the British in 1767, she traveled with her son Tutauk to London in 1768, where she befriended the

German-born princess Augusta of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg and spoke to the British authorities on behalf of the Moravians, asking them to allow the Moravian Church to begin missionary work in Labrador. Returning home, she was involved in founding the mission station in Nain, which still exists today. However, her criticism of the missionaries' strategy and a decision by lot prevented her from being baptized, so she increasingly turned away from the Moravians and finally died unbaptized in Nain on October 1, 1795, after many trials and tribulations. An article by Arkis expert Kenn Harper in the blog Taissumani can be found [here](#) in German translation.

Companion booklet to the catechism of the Moravian Church in North America published



The updated "Catechism for the Moravian Church in America" was published in 2021. PDF in English [here](#). Developed by the Interprovincial Commission on Faith and Church Order, this work is intended to be a summary of the Christian faith and to be used for the instruction of confirmands and new members of the

Moravian Church. The catechism is not a curriculum, but it can be used in confirmation classes, Sunday school, classes for new members, and as a reference work. To facilitate the use of the new catechism and to better convey the teachings it contains, a team of educators, pastors, and writers has developed a new companion booklet to the new Moravian Church catechism. It is based on the catechism's framework and structure and is not intended to be used as a stand-alone work. PDF with the companion booklet in English [here](#) (70 pages).

Greetings from the Delhi Moravian Fellowship



The Delhi Moravian Fellowship wrote on Facebook on June 29, 2025: "Greetings to all brothers and sisters in Christ! We hope you are all well. As you know, our Sunday school class has been very active in recent months. [Here](#) are a few pictures of our activities today. The children in Sunday school are painting a picture based on their imagination of today's Bible chapter about Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37:1-11). They did a great job, didn't they? You can see their enthusiasm for learning something from the Old Testament and about spiritual life. We would like to encourage all parents to read God's Word to their children whenever possible. This will help them grow in their faith. To the children who couldn't be here today: I hope to see you again next Sunday. Have a blessed day. Your sister, Manna Kahmei."

Contribution by Johann Hinrich Claussen to the “first image” of the Moravian Church



The Visual Commentary on Scripture (VCS) is a free online resource in English. It offers material for teaching, preaching, research, and reflection on the Bible, art, and theology. Recently, the cultural representative of the EKD, Rev. Johann Hinrich Claussen, interpreted three images on the platform on the theme of The Great Commission (Jesus' Great Commission), Matthew 28:11–20. See [here](#). The second of the pictures interpreted there is the so-called First Picture by the Herrnhut painter Johann Valentin Haidt, who painted it in 1747 on commission from Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf. This large oil painting originally hung in the hall of the count's house on the Herrnhag; it currently hangs in the Small Hall of the Moravian Church in Zeist

in the Netherlands. The painting is considered the earliest depiction of people from more than a dozen countries united in appreciation in a life-size image.

News in Brief

1. In Kipili, on the eastern shore of the 680-kilometer-long Lake Tanganyika, another couples' seminar organized by the Moravian Church in Tanzania (Rukwa Province) is in full swing. A video can be found [here](#). A first seminar held three months ago was very well received and brought several couples closer together.
2. The third grade class at *Uitkyk Primary School* in Greyton recently took advantage of the many helpful offerings at the Moravian Church Mission Museum in Genadendal, South Africa. The children's eyes widened, questions flew through the air, and history came alive in the museum. Pictures [here](#).
3. On June 5, 2025, [UN-Environment Day](#), the Trash to Treasure campaign was launched at the Shristi Academy of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu-Baneshwor, Nepal, to the delight of all. A longer video shows the beautiful everyday objects that were created on that day. See [here](#).
4. On Father's Day in the US, which is celebrated on the third Sunday in June, the Moravian Church in Cuba presented its bishop, Armando Rogelio Rusindo, not so much as a church father but rather as a family man. See [here](#).
5. On June 19, 2025, the Moravian Church in Burundi wrote on Facebook: "The Barana Children's Charity, founded in Burundi, supports people in need. Today, it handed out materials to students studying at 14 different universities to help them overcome their hardships. The students thanked the Moravian Church in Burundi for its efforts to support them in achieving their goals." Pictures [here](#).
6. The Kuilsriver Moravian Church in Cape Town, South Africa, posted a video on Facebook showing the congregation's brass choir at Pentecost 2025. See and hear it [here](#). Even older are 56 pictures from Moravian Music Sunday at the Maitland Moravian Church in Cape Town. See them [here](#).
7. From June 26 to July 9, 2025, it will be the turn of the British Unity Province to hold its Unity Prayer Watch. To mark this occasion, you can find lots of prayer information [here](#) for the Moravian Church in Great Britain and also worldwide in English.
8. Mary Kategile, General Secretary of the Moravian Church in Tanzania, the coordinating body of all Unity and Mission Provinces (10 + 2) of the Moravian Church in Tanzania, posted a photo of a course for theology students who will graduate in 2025. See [here](#). The aim of the course is to sensitize young people

to their calling to congregational service and to give them a practical understanding of pastoral ministry in the congregations. Robert Pangani, bishop of the Moravian Church residing in the Southwest Province of the Moravian Church in Tanzania, was present at the course. Rev. Dr. Mary Kategile is considered by many to be a "treasure" of the Moravian Church in Tanzania because of her initiatives.

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