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## Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

### Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Ausgabe 2025-17 vom 04. September 2025

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## Inauguration of three new classrooms at the Herrnhut Academy in Zanzibar



On September 1, 2025, the Herrnhuter Academy in Mwera, Zanzibar, celebrated the inauguration of a new building with three classrooms. The school expansion was implemented in close cooperation with Tanzania Mwangaza and made possible by generous financial support. The varied program of the inauguration ceremony included musical performances, traditional dances, words of thanks from the students, and speeches by those responsible. Afterwards, the children received gifts before the day ended with a communal lunch. With the new classrooms, the Herrnhut Academy now offers significantly more students the opportunity to learn in a safe, modern, and well-equipped environment. We would like to thank everyone involved, especially the Prümmer and Prihoda families and the Fly & Help Foundation, for their active support and trust in the work of our school.

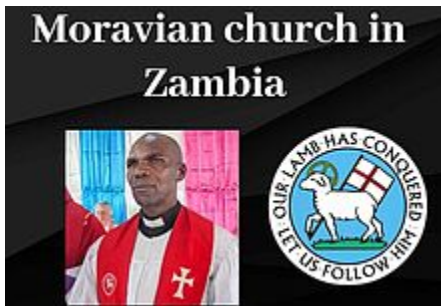
## New afternoon program for children in Burrel, Albania



In September, the *Moravian Church Albania* will launch a new afternoon program in Burrel for elementary school children in grades 1 to 4. Twelve children will have the opportunity to learn, play, and develop their skills together in a safe environment from Monday to Friday. In addition to homework support, the program also includes creative activities such as painting, crafts, music, and dance. The program is complemented by sports, which promote exercise and health. Those responsible also

place particular emphasis on learning together and social interaction so that the children not only acquire knowledge but also develop self-confidence, creativity, and teamwork skills. This program creates a place that opens up new opportunities for children in Burrel and offers them a safe space to develop positively.

## New leadership elected for the Moravian Church in Zambia



There has recently been a change in leadership at the *Moravian Church in Zambia* MCZ. A new team was elected to take responsibility for the work of the church in the coming years. Rev. John M. Sichilima was elected bishop. He will thus assume a central spiritual and representative role in the future. Rev. Benjamin Siwanzi will chair the church leadership, while Rev. Ruth Nakamba will take on the role of

general secretary. Financial responsibilities will be in the hands of Sr. Mary K. Kimiti, who was elected treasurer. With this composition, the leadership of the MCZ is broadly based in terms of both personnel and content. The Herrnhuter Missionshilfe warmly congratulates the new leadership and wishes them wisdom and strength for the tasks ahead. We look forward to continuing our good cooperation with the MCZ and to further advancing joint projects in the areas of education, social development, and strengthening of congregations.

## Stories of strength and community in Genadendal



On Friday, August 8, 2025, the Mission Museum of the Moravian Church in Genadendal, South Africa, was transformed into a place of healing memories, music, and storytelling. The museum had invited guests to attend *Almal se Stoepstories / In her Own Words*, an event dedicated to oral history featuring the voices of women from Genadendal. Guests were

welcomed with the cheerful sounds of the Genadendal Brass Band. The program was opened by Sylvia Oliver from Bredasdorp, a motivational speaker. With grace and sincerity, she spoke about resilience and determination. The focus was then on the stories of four remarkable women (Connie Fisher/teacher and municipal councilor; Elizabeth Kupido/factory worker; Joan Erasmus/kindergarten teacher; Cathleen

Beyers/housewife and mother of several children). The women's stories each represented the power and great strength that lives in the Valley of Grace. More [here](#).

## Chioma Henry introduced as new education pastor in Barbados



With the young Chioma Henry, the Unity Province of West Indies East, specifically in the administrative area of the Barbados Conference, now has a pastor for tasks in the field of education and training. She completed her theology studies at the ecumenical United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, and then worked in the St.

Kitts Conference. Representatives of the Barbados Conference gathered at Grantley Adams International Airport in Christ Church on August 7, 2025, to welcome the new employee with open arms. Photos [here](#). In a moving introductory speech during a church service on August 10, 2025, Chioma Henry reminded those present that God is faithful and powerful even in the present. She called on people to trust in God amid all their uncertainty in order to find the path ahead of them. The church leadership asks for intercessory prayer for Chioma Henry's ministry.

## Course for evangelists in Kigoma: “Courage for entrepreneurship”



After more than 50 male evangelists and a few female evangelists from the Moravian Church in Tanzania (Lake Tanganyika Province) attended a week-long training course in Kigoma, they were sent out on Sunday to church services in the surrounding area. Their task was to demonstrate what they had learned during the course. This time, the course content did not

focus primarily on preaching and pastoral care, but on very practical matters: How can I start a small business to secure my livelihood or help others to do so? How can I best handle the administrative work that arises in a company and in a congregation? How can I use my time responsibly? How can I ensure order and safety on company and church premises? With regard to running a small business, the evangelists were instructed in the production of juice and soap. More in Danish

in an article by Svend Løbner [here](#).

## Community helper retreat in Burundi with 100 percent attendance



On August 8–9, 2025, a retreat for church workers was held at the headquarters of the Moravian Church in Burundi in Bujumbura. All church workers attended. The church's administrative director, Edouard Augustino Nsengiyumva, and the church's bishop, Pascal Benimana, provided information about the current state of the church. They asked those present to commit themselves to the goals of

the church. Many pictures [here](#). Thirty poor women from the congregations of Kimeza and Minyago received help from the Moravian Church during a service on August 17, 2025. After reading 1 Corinthians 13, the Song of Love, each of them was presented with an Igitenge dress. See [here](#). The women were invited to always attend church services with dignity. The pastor and leader of the Kirundo district, Jean Damascene Rurangwa, was present at this diaconal event. From August 29 to 31, 2025, the Moravian Church in Burundi is inviting people to a large evangelization event in Kirundo in the north of the country. Poster [here](#).

## Children's festivals commemorating the children's revival in Herrnhut also held in Nicaragua



On August 17, 1727, a special revival of the children took place in Herrnhut. This is commemorated in many parts of the Unity. Children are the focus of the celebrations. In memory of the children's spiritual experience, joyful children's celebrations were also held in many Moravian Church communities in Nicaragua. Pictures [here](#) and [here](#). The children recited, sang, danced, and presented small

works of art.



## All the things you can donate...



The Unity Women's Desk (UWD), headquartered in Winston-Salem, NC, posted on Facebook: "Do you have any spare wool sweaters or wool yarn? Then donate your wool to the UWD! We ask for pure wool, not 'superwashed'. All donated wool will be reused for handicrafts for our Moravian Global Market. Or do you have nail polish sitting in one of your drawers, gathering dust because

you don't use it? Then consider donating your nearly empty nail polish to the UWD. We use donated nail polish to create painted artwork for our Moravian Global Market, such as colorful pumpkins! If you would like to send us leftover wool or nail polish, please contact the director of our organization, Julie Tomberlin, by email ([julie.unitywomen@gmail.com](mailto:julie.unitywomen@gmail.com)) or by phone (336 575-8577). See [here](#) and [here](#).

## Dresden University of Technology follows in the footsteps of the Herrnhut Mission



In recent years, the Faculty of Linguistics, Literature, and Cultural Studies at Dresden University of Technology has been primarily concerned with Moravian topics relevant to missionary history. Since 2023, however, the Faculty of Botany has been researching a Moravian topic with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The

students are working on the following project: Natural Science and Protestant Mission – The Plant Collections of the Moravian Church in the Herbarium of the Technical University of Dresden: Identification and Contextualization Using Methods of Digital Humanities. See [here](#). The aim of the project is to catalog the Herrnhut section of the Dresden Herbarium and to reconstruct the historical network of all persons involved in the collection, including a large number of missionaries. See also the blog Mission and Botany [here](#).

## News in Brief

1. From Friday, August 22, to Sunday, August 24, 2025, the Bethel Moravian Church will host a Gospel Music Festival organized by the Alaska Province of the United Church of Christ, a weekend filled with praise, singing, and

- fellowship. Among other things, the events will also serve to raise funds for the Alaska Moravian Seminary. The detailed program can be found [here](#).
2. Pictures and two videos of Pastor Will Cuthbert's evangelistic ministry from Costa Rica on August 20, 2025, at the Iglesia Moravos Ebenezer in Santa Clara, Cuba, can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Will Cuthbert regularly travels to provinces in the Latin American region of the Moravian Church.
  3. The Moravian Women's Association (MWA) of the British Unity Province has recently begun supporting CRIBS International, a refugee aid organization operating in Greece that primarily assists pregnant refugee women and women with children. The organization points out that one in ten refugee women arriving in Greece is pregnant. See Mary Holmes' MWA Home and Overseas Paper for July/August 2025 [here](#).
  4. On August 25, 2025, an open house week will begin at the Christian David School near Barkava in Latvia. Parents who currently have a child in grades 1 through 6 are invited to visit the school and talk to teachers and students. At the same time, visitors can view the student exhibition Unbesiegbar (Invincible), which is dedicated to the defenders of Ukraine. And there will be delicious homemade ice cream. See [here](#).
  5. The Moravian Institute in Rajpur, near Dehradun in northern India, founded in 1963 by former Buddhist lama Eliyah Thsetsan Phuntsog, has added several new photos to its homepage showing the large staff of the boarding school, part of the school campus, a classroom, some students in school uniforms, a small section of the mountainous surroundings, and the student body at their daily morning prayer. See [here](#).
  6. On the evening of August 22, 2025, members and friends of the Moravian Church in Latvia were invited to a contemplative summer concert in the prayer hall in Rīņģi near Blome, not far from Smiltene. Pictures [here](#). The concert featured mainly music by Latvian composer and conductor Uģis Prauliņš. The music was accompanied by thunder and lightning in the night sky, which only brought the guests in the prayer hall closer together. A temporary café was also open in the prayer hall.
  7. In its congregation newsletter for fall 2025, the Moravian Church in North Rhine-Westphalia briefly reports on the visit of two members from its partner congregation Bethesda (South Africa; Eastern Cape region) in July 2025: Sister Nonkululeko Lipindo and Brother Desmond Sikhonje. See [here](#) (page 4f.). The brothers and sisters got to know their partner congregation and traveled through Germany with an escort. The visit is described in more detail in the 2025 annual report.
  8. Janna Barrit, the young fundraising and project manager for the Moravian Church's missionary organization in Denmark, recently traveled to Sumbawanga in the Rukwa Province in southwestern Tanzania, where she

gained valuable experience and new inspiration. Among other places, she visited the Peter's House orphanage, where she gained insight into the daily lives of the children and staff. During her trip, she met with leaders of the Moravian Church in Rukwa Province. They showed her projects that received financial support from Denmark: the vocational training center for carpentry, the nursing school, and the Bible school. Pictures [here](#).

9. At the Shristi Academy of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu-Baneshwor, Nepal, taekwondo and futsal are now also being taught in a targeted manner. A nationally renowned taekwondo athlete and a nationally renowned soccer player were present at the inauguration of the corresponding sports facilities. Pictures [here](#).

## **Impressum**

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