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Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Ausgabe 2025-23 vom 27. November 2025

Project trip by Herrnhuter Missionshilfe to Malawi and Zanzibar



In October, Bettina Nasgowitz, Kerstin Heim, and Markus Kuhn from Herrnhuter Missionshilfe visited projects in Malawi and Zanzibar and held important talks with long-standing partners. At *Atsikana Walani Technical College (AWTC)*, they looked at the permaculture project and the start of the urgently needed shelter and residential home for vulnerable young women. At the *Light of Hope School* in the Dzaleka refugee camp, the

tense situation of many families was once again evident. In addition to education, the school offers the children a warm meal, care, and a safe space. In Mzuzu, the team attended a training course on the production of organic fertilizers at the *Women Training Center* and visited the new headquarters of the *Moravian Church Malawi*, which serves as a central coordination point. In Zanzibar, the focus was on the inclusive kindergarten in Kiboje and the graduation of the *Herrnhut Academy* – visible successes of long-term educational work. The trip underscores the committed and trusting cooperation with partners who are committed to education, participation, and social development despite difficult conditions.

Interview with Ranya Karam on the situation in the West Bank



On November 18, 2025, the mission organization of the Moravian Church in Denmark (BDM) published an interview conducted by Svend Løbner with Ranya Karam, director of the *Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC)* in Star Mountain, near Ramallah (Palestine). It is entitled: "Do children in the West Bank have a

future?" In the interview, Ranya Karam says:

"According to UN figures, there were 757 attacks by Israeli settlers in the West Bank in the first half of 2025, resulting in casualties or property damage on the Palestinian side – an increase of 13 percent over the same period last year. At the moment, we don't dare to hope for anything good. We don't even have hope for ourselves as adults, not even for normal, healthy people, so hope for children and young people with disabilities is very slim. I can't be optimistic given the current situation. We all have to take each day as it comes. The future is completely uncertain. According to the UN, over 1,000 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank last year alone. Not to mention the thousands of war victims in Gaza. Everyone is afraid. Cities in the West Bank that are close to Israeli settlements are attacked daily by settlers. Olive groves are cleared, houses destroyed, sheep and other livestock stolen or killed. What else can we do but live day by day?" The entire interview [here](#).

New special sports lessons on Star Mountain

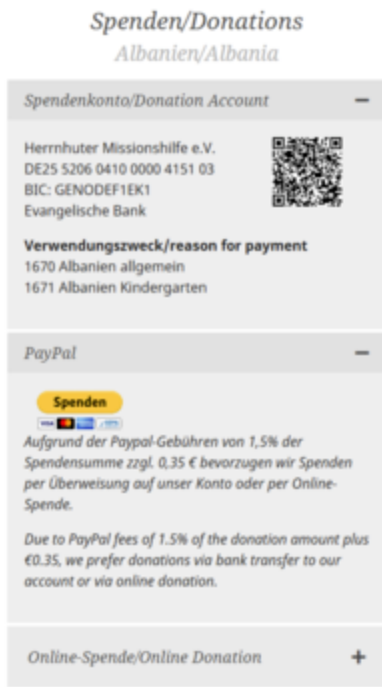


The Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC near Ramallah (Palestine/West Bank) is now cooperating with a specialized fitness trainer. She offers weekly sports lessons for students with intellectual disabilities who are participating in school and vocational training programs. The aim of this new initiative is to improve the physical abilities of the children and

young men and women, thereby strengthening their motivation and self-confidence. The exercises and playful activities are tailored to the individual abilities and needs of the students. Obesity, poor mobility, and poor physical condition are also problems for people with intellectual disabilities. The spacious, partly wooded terrain on the 800-meter-high Star Mountain is ideal for sports activities. Eight pictures [here](#).

PayPal donations now also possible at HMMH

Donations via PayPal are now also possible at HMMH. This provides more opportunities to support Herrnhuter Missionshilfe e.V. and its projects. As usual, we have our donation account, for which we now also offer a Girocode. The Girocode can be read with the banking app and offers a pre-filled transfer form. You can then enter the amount and the project you



would like to support. In addition, there is the option of making an online donation via the donation portal (www.herrnhuter-spenden.de). Since many people now use PayPal for their financial transactions, we now also offer the option of transferring money in this quick and easy way. You can receive a donation receipt for all donations, regardless of how they are received by us. Thank you very much!

Aid for Cuba, which was hit by Hurricane "Melissa", is now getting underway



The island of Cuba, which was severely devastated by Hurricane *Melissa* at the end of October 2025, is now receiving a wide range of aid. This was reported by the *Ecumenical Council of Churches in Cuba*, in which the Moravian Church is also actively involved, in a Facebook post on November 14, 2025. The report begins: "Where the hurricane recently raged and torrential rain devastated almost everything,

today there is a whisper of hope that is materializing in food, medicine, care products, clothing, shoes, and technology. But the aid goes beyond material support. It is a ray of hope that strengthens the resilience of the human spirit, a powerful reminder that kindness and solidarity can build bridges even in the darkest moments." Emergency committees of the Church Council are everywhere. The distribution of goods is in full swing. A lot of help is coming from partner congregations, especially from the neighboring US state of Florida. For example, they are working together with *ACT Alliance*. Mattresses and blankets are currently needed. Pictures [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

Storm destroyed another church belonging to the Moravian Church in Burundi



After a storm with heavy rain had already destroyed the *Moravian Church in Kirekura* near Bujumbura on Wednesday, November 4, 2025, the church in Miduha near Rugombo on the border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo has now also been damaged by the force of a storm. Pastor Manasse Irutingabo, the leader of the *Moravian Church in the Bujumbura district*, called on Christians to pray. Satan is active among them and wants to hinder God's work, he said. The pastor reported on Facebook that parts of the church walls had been torn down by the storm and now lay in the Rusizi River. He comforted the sad parishioners on Facebook and encouraged them to renew their faith. He said that the individual Moravian Churches in the Bujumbura district were on the right track. They were doing God's work. Satan could not prevent that. Pictures of the partially destroyed church [here](#).

Women well connected in the worldwide Moravian Church



A post by the *Unity Women's Desk* (UWD) on November 10, 2025, shows that the women are well connected within the worldwide Moravian Church. This organization, founded in 2011 but with origins dating back to 1995 (see [here](#)), has been operating since 2023 under the leadership of a coordinator (currently Julie Tomberlin from Winston-Salem, USA) and a seven-member advisory board: Each of the four Unity regions (Africa, Europe, Caribbean/Latin America, North America) has one representative on the advisory board. Each additional representative comes from Africa, the most important continent for the Moravian Church, is Spanish-speaking, and is younger than 50. The connections within the worldwide Moravian Church are demonstrated by the encounters that the prominent Tanzanian pastor Mary Katergile had on the Caribbean island of Curaçao: a) with Rhoïnde Mijnaalds-Doth, the recently elected bishop of the Moravian Church from the Netherlands with a Surinamese background (see [here](#)), and b) with Roberta Hoey, the current chairperson of the Unity Board, the governing body of the worldwide Moravian Church between synods, from Great Britain (see [here](#)).

The "Global Market" in Old Salem: A place to meet and learn



The *Global Market* on South Church Street in Old Salem, the historic 18th-century district of Winston-Salem, NC, organized by the *Unity Women's Desk* (UWD), is a place of encounter. Here, products are made in workshops and offered for sale, opening a window to the wider world—especially the world of the Moravians. Recently, guests from South Africa visited the

Global Market (see [here](#)) and shared their art (see [here](#)). Two young women from Nepal, who are staying in the city for an extended period, can also be found at the Global Market time and again. From them, younger and older American women from the southeastern United States learn the techniques used to create handicrafts in their distant homeland (see [here](#)). Sewing and embroidering, painting and crafting together often leads to international understanding.

Introducing: Neema Abson Mwakapakula, Director of "Peter's House"



In a post dated November 14, 2025, the mission organization of the Moravian Church in Denmark, BDM, introduces Neema Abson Mwakapakula, the director of *Peter's House*, an orphanage run by the Moravian Church in Sumbawanga (Tanzania, Rukwa Province). See [here](#). The director writes: "I myself grew up in difficult circumstances. My mother died when

I was five years old. I became a domestic worker for a man who took advantage of me. Although I was still very young, I had to do all the housework. I really struggled to juggle everything: school and housework. Today, I want to help children in similar situations." Her main thesis is: "Children need love to thrive. If a child doesn't want to go to school, it's usually because there are problems there. We therefore need to ask what the problem is and listen to the child. The child needs to gain enough self-confidence."

Two news from Nicaragua



- The Morava bookstore in the entrance area of the office of the leadership of the Nicaragua Unity Province in Bilwi/Puerto Cabezas informs that the Bible, the hymnbook (small and large editions), and the daily devotionals in Miskito, Mayangna, and Spanish, a sermon Bible, a Bible dictionary (Reina Valera version), and many other products are available for those who would like to delve deeper into the Bible. The bookstore, which also offers beverages, a few stationery items, and photocopying services, is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pictures [here](#).
- On November 5, 2025, the *Moravian High School* (formerly Colegio Moravo Secundaria) in Bluefields in southeastern Nicaragua celebrated the 104th anniversary of its founding with a festive service followed by a large banquet in the school gym. See [here](#) and [here](#).

Suriname calendar 2026 available in Zeist



The popular Suriname Calendar 2026 is now available at the museum *Das Herrnhuter Haus* in the moravian neighborhood of Zeist, Netherlands. It costs €15.95, excluding shipping. To the online shop [here](#). The advertisement states: "A calendar full of photos and emotions, full of texts and experiences from Suriname. You often hear people say that once you've been to Suriname, you fall in love with the country. For years, the proceeds from the calendar have been used to support small, effective, and appealing social projects in Suriname run by the [Suriname Calendar Foundation](#), which was founded in 1994," including projects run by the Moravian Church in Suriname in the areas of education, welfare, and health. The cover pages of the last six calendars can be viewed [here](#). Anyone who supports the foundation with an annual donation of 26 euros will receive a free copy of the calendar as soon as it is published.

Lecture recommendation from the School Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname



The school foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname recently drew the attention of its approximately 1,400 teachers to a series of lectures on bullying and classroom dynamics by Dutch educator Dr. Nathalie Hoekstra. It particularly recommended lecture no. 7: *The role of the teacher in the social dynamics of a school class*. The entire lecture in Dutch [here](#). The

author emphasizes that teachers are a kind of social worker and are seen as role models. Students mirror their attitudes and behavior. It is therefore extremely important how teachers interact with their students. How teachers view their students, how they reprimand and praise them, influences the behavior of the students among themselves. Dr. Nathalie Hoekstra outlines four specific ways in which teachers can specifically promote engagement, positivity, and cooperation in the classroom. Her basic thesis is that the subtle, often indirect influence of teachers controls the social dynamics of a class and the likelihood of bullying.

Student Science Fair in Kathmandu



The *International Kindergarten & Shristi Academy* of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu, Nepal, had scheduled a student science fair for Saturday, November 15, 2025. It took place indoors and outdoors at the school in the Baneshwor district. Facebook reported: "The fair was impressive proof of the brilliance of our young students! Each project on display showed

a very special engagement with scientific and technical principles. The potential of our future leaders was evident at every booth." The young developers of the respective projects, which had been inspired in class, answered questions from parents and various visitors from the public. More than 70 pictures [here](#). A short Video [here](#). Among other things, water filters, an automatic drawing machine, and studies on aerodynamics were on display.

Three Asia-News

- On November 24, 2025, the *Moravian Mission School* in Leh, Ladakh, northern India, posted a wealth of images accompanied by music on Facebook, writing: "Our students are doing



great things in every respect.” See [here](#).

- A highlight in the everyday life of the *International Kindergarten & Shristi Academy* of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu-Baneshwor was an outing for the little ones: On Facebook on November 24, 2025, it said: “A day full of laughter and learning at the zoo! The children from the toddler group, kindergarten, and preschool had the opportunity to see their favorite animals up close.” See [here](#).
- The five congregations of the still young *Moravian Church in Myanmar*, which now has around 300 members, meet regularly for worship services in private homes. However, many members have had to leave their homes for political reasons, losing all their possessions. Some of them now live in the *Sami Township* refugee camp.

EMW supports decision by EKD Synod in Dresden



On November 17, 2025, the leaders of the mission, ecumenical, and partnership organizations under the umbrella of the *Evangelische Mission Weltweit* (EMW) welcomed a resolution passed by the EKD Synod in Dresden the previous week. The resolution asks the EKD Council to “continue to vigorously advocate to political parties, the federal government, the

Bundestag, and EU institutions for a strong German and European development policy and humanitarian aid, and to remind them of the internationally agreed goal of allocating 0.7 percent of economic output to public development assistance.” However, the Synod resolution also addresses the EKD member churches, asking them to “consider the special responsibility of the still wealthy churches of the North for the Global South” despite all the necessary austerity measures, and adding the demand that the work of the Church Development Service and the international partnership work of the mission agencies should be the last areas in which cuts are made. To the complete press release [here](#).

News in Brief

1. The Moravian Congregation in Binnakandi in the northeastern state of Assam recently posted a song performed by the children's choir in the small church

- hall of the congregation. See [here](#).
2. Artificial intelligence, which the *Mission Museum* of the Moravian Church in Genadendal occasionally works with, makes it possible: a short video (originally a black-and-white photo) shows the black South African bishop *John Ulster* conducting a church choir in Elim in 1965. A Facebook post by the museum states: "From pixels to presence: we are bringing the bishop's legacy to life: faith, music, and education, as well as the unity of black and white, work together harmoniously." See and hear [here](#).
 3. The *Spring Gardens Moravian Congregation* in St. John's, Antigua, celebrated the 44th anniversary of the independent state of *Antigua & Barbuda* with a joyful festive service on Sunday, November 2, 2025. Some pictures [here](#).
 4. While the *Mission Museum* of the Moravian Church in Genadendal, South Africa, normally tells stories about objects and displays them, it recently drew attention to important subjects: the museum's dedicated staff. See [here](#). Casey De Wet and Gustav Magerman are not pictured in the photo.
 5. In several Moravian Congregations in Germany, children are dismissed before the sermon begins during Sunday services. A video shows how energetically children are welcomed with a special message during services at the *Memorial Moravian Church* on St. Thomas by Althea Jarvis. (see [here](#); from Min. 48.10).
 6. On its website about national parks, the Canadian government also refers to the protected area surrounding the former Moravian mission station *Hoffental/Hopedale*. The large wooden mission houses located there have been extensively restored. See [here](#).
 7. The *London Moravian Church* in Cambridge, Wisconsin, has decided to donate \$30,000 to help overcome the recent hurricane damage in Alaska and Jamaica. See [here](#).
 8. Members of the governing body of the *West Indies-East Province* (Provincial Elders Conference) and other senior staff from the regions of the island province met in mid-November 2025 at *Mount Tabor Moravian Church* in Barbados. Photo [here](#).
 9. The schools of the Moravian Church in Suriname are currently beginning celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the country's independence from the Netherlands on November 25, 1975. People everywhere are wearing their traditional, colorful clothing. See [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).
 10. With focus articles on children in Albania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and the West Bank, the magazine of the mission organization of the Moravian Church in Denmark has now been published under the title *BDMnyt* (issue 4-2025). At the same time, the magazine once again introduces the staff in Denmark, the foreign missionaries, and the young volunteers. See in Danish [here](#).

Impressum

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