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Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

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Seeking support for a greenhouse at the Walani Vocational Training Center in Malawi



With the end of the rainy season, a particularly challenging period begins in Malawi: the soil dries out quickly, water becomes scarce, and many families must secure their harvests under difficult conditions. Malawi is one of the countries most severely affected by the impacts of climate change. Frequent droughts and irregular rainfall are making reliable agriculture increasingly difficult. Students and staff at the

Atsikana Walani Technical College (AWTC) also face these challenges. This makes sustainable solutions that enable an independent, year-round supply all the more important. A sturdy greenhouse is intended to address this: It would enable the protected cultivation of vegetables and herbs such as tomatoes, peppers, and medicinal plants, regardless of heavy rainfall or intense sunlight. At the same time, the harvests can be better processed and preserved, which both improves the food situation and creates income opportunities. The plan is to build a sturdy greenhouse made of a metal frame and durable plastic sheeting that can withstand even extreme weather conditions. Approximately €6,500 is needed for the project. With your support, you will help to sustainably improve local living conditions and enable young women at the AWTC to receive a future-oriented education. [Donate via PayPal here.](#)

Visit by Engagement Global / bengo to the AWTC and the Light of Hope School

In mid-March, our local project team MoHDevs in Malawi welcomed a visit from Engagement Global / bengo (BMZ). The visit provided a valuable opportunity to present the work carried



out over the past few years directly on site and to engage in dialogue with the responsible parties. In addition to providing insights into ongoing programs, the focus was also on discussing challenges and future development opportunities. Particularly important was the shared vision for the future: During the meeting, the planned new project in collaboration with Difäm (German Institute for Medical Mission)

was also presented and discussed. The goal is to further expand existing initiatives and sustainably strengthen support for women, girls, and families. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Engagement Global / bengo for their visit, their interest in our work, and the constructive exchange. Such on-site meetings are an important part of our partnership-based collaboration and help us to jointly develop projects and ensure their long-term effectiveness.

Solar training boosts vocational education in Tanzania



A training course on solar photovoltaics for instructors is currently taking place at the Moravian Vocational Training Centre (MVTC) in Mbeya, Tanzania. The goal is to strengthen their skills in teaching about renewable energy and to improve the quality of vocational training in the long term. The training is conducted by Tanzania Mwangaza (TAM) and supported by the Urbis Foundation in cooperation with Herrnhuter

Missionshilfe. Trainers Dr.-Ing. Matthew Matimbwi and Fadhil Ally teach both theoretical fundamentals and practical applications. Six trainers from various VTCs are participating and will directly apply the knowledge they have gained in their training centers. In the long term, this will benefit many young people, who will be better prepared for the demands of a sustainable energy future.

An Eventful Day on Starmountain

The children with disabilities at the special education school of the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) run by the Moravian Church near Ramallah in Palestine



(West Bank) are always delighted to have visitors. March 17, 2026, was a special day for them: Young people from the *Hayat Youth Foundation* in Ramallah created “a joyful and welcoming atmosphere” at the school, as described in a Facebook post. “The young Palestinian volunteers organized inclusive

physical and artistic activities for the students with intellectual disabilities. At the end of the joint event, they distributed symbolic gifts to the students, bringing smiles to their faces.” Some photos [here](#). Cooperation not only with foreign but also with domestic NGOs is an important factor in the SMRC’s multifaceted approach.

SMRC is promoting its kindergarten



The Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) of the Moravian Church near Ramallah (Palestine, West Bank) encourages parents to enroll their children in kindergarten at an early age. An illustrated Facebook post from March 11, 2026, states: “Our kindergarten program is inclusive. It is designed for children with and without disabilities in a safe and stimulating

learning environment. All children benefit from learning together. Our program aims to develop children’s cognitive, language, and social skills. Values such as acceptance, cooperation, and interaction cannot be taught early enough. We offer a variety of educational and recreational activities, including games, drawing, music, movement, and group activities, which enable the holistic development of children, including through specialized educational programs. We have a qualified team of professionals. See [here](#).

Olive Oil Soap – Handmade for Hope



This lovingly crafted olive oil soap combines care, fairness, and hope. The well-known, high-quality olive oil comes from traditional olive groves in Palestine and is processed by the soap manufacturer Lagerhaus GmbH in the Swabian Alb. With every bar you purchase, you support the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC, which has been supporting and assisting

children and young people with intellectual disabilities for many years. The olive oil soap is a product of Moravian Merchandise, the fair trade initiative of Herrnhuter Missionshilfe e.V., and stands for quality, transparency, and solidarity. It is available at the following volume prices: 1 piece → €4.90/piece, 10 pieces → €4.70/piece, 100 pieces → €4.40/piece. The soap is also particularly appealing as a sustainable gift idea for companies, clubs, or groups—for example, for Easter, anniversaries, or as a thank-you gift. With this small, high-quality product, you are not only giving the gift of care, but also a future and support for the work of SMRC. For more information and ordering options, please visit www.moravian-merchandise.org.

Nicaragua celebrated the 177th anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church



In the Unity Province of Nicaragua, the 177th anniversary of the church's founding was celebrated in most congregations. The founding date is considered to be March 14, 1849, when the first three moravian missionaries—coming from Jamaica—arrived on the country's east coast: Heinrich Gottlob Pfeiffer, Johannes Eugen Lundberg, and Ernst Kandler. They went ashore in Bluefields. Where the pier stands today, they held their first worship service under a breadfruit tree. Very close to this spot, they built a church and a school (see photo). 177 years later, thanks to God's blessing, the Iglesia Morava (Moravian Church) is a large and influential church on Nicaragua's east coast. Teachers, nurses, and carpenters came with the missionaries. Many schools and health centers were established along the coast and also inland. The most renowned school was founded on March 14, 1921, as the Moravian Junior High School in Bluefields. Read more about the history of this school in Spanish [here](#).

Commemoration of the Start of the Mission in Musawas, Nicaragua

Every year on March 15, many congregations in Nicaragua celebrate the anniversary of the start of their mission. The congregations in Musawas, in the Las Minas region, do the same. In the sermon on Isaiah 1:16–20, drawing on the teachings of Jan Amos Comenius, the last bishop



of the Old Moravian Church, it was not only recalled but emphasized that there is no reason for despair; rather, Isaiah's message is to recognize mistakes and errors. Then it is time to act and not passively wait for God's help, for the church is "active life," just as the mission began actively: the Gospel, education, social engagement. According to Comenius, the

foundation is always: learning, teaching, education. The Iglesia Morava advocates here and in other parts of Latin America for peace, nonviolence, and social justice, and seeks cooperation rather than division among churches.

Young people in Jamaica today are reflecting on questions of faith



The Bethabara Moravian Church in Manchester, Jamaica, had planned a one-day seminar titled "Denim & Discipleship" for Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 11 a.m. Young people in particular were invited to a casual Sunday service. The Facebook post read: "We want to reflect together on what it means to live out our faith, shape our character, and be part of the church. Please

come dressed casually (e.g., in jeans), but in a way that is still appropriate for worship. Look forward to an inspiring time of fellowship with guided reflection. Bring a pen for your notes! Let's learn and reflect together and grow as disciples of Jesus. We look forward to seeing you!" See [here](#). From Manchester, England—the namesake of the Jamaican city of Manchester—comes the world-famous corduroy fabric (corduroy), which was used for sturdy work pants.

School News from the worldwide Moravian Church



- On March 18, 2026, the Moravian Mission School in Leh, Ladakh (northern India), posted a five-minute video on Facebook showcasing the school's illustrious history and current state, describing it as "one of the best schools in Ladakh, which has set a milestone in Ladakh's educational landscape." Watch and listen [here](#).

- Bethlehem Moravian College in Malvern, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, will hold an open house on Saturday, April 30, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. See [here](#). A promotional video is available [here](#). The school's motto is: "Shaping the Future: Harnessing Innovation for an Inclusive and Sustainable Tomorrow."
- The International Kindergarten & Shristi Academy of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu-Baneshwor, Nepal, posted a short video on March 24, 2026, of this year's annual festival, which included a parents' day, and asked viewers: "Which of the children's performances did you like best?" See [here](#).

Orphans of the Moravian Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will no longer be evacuated



After a three-month evacuation to the city of Uvira, D.R. Congo, the orphans of the Moravian Church returned to Knudsen House on the outskirts of Kakuzi in early March 2026. The evacuation became necessary when armed M23 rebels temporarily invaded the region on December 9, 2025, and later looted the orphanage. Thanks to the evacuation, the

children remained unharmed, but the orphanage is now missing a large portion of its inventory. "The village of Kakuzi, where the orphanage is located, had become a battlefield between the rebels and the regular army," writes Jacques Bya'unda, Chairperson of the Moravian Church Congo, in a report. "Our country is impoverished and torn apart by civil war. The children's joy at being reunited in their familiar surroundings after such a long time was immense. The situation is improving every day, although it is not yet as good as it was before the rebels captured the city." More in Danish [here](#) in a post by Svend Løbner from the Brødremenighedens Danske Mission (BDM) dated March 13, 2026.

"Board of World Mission" in North America reports on its aid to Ukraine



On March 18, the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church America North, based in Bethlehem, PA, reported on its aid efforts in Ukraine. "Immediately after the war in Ukraine began in 2022, funds from our disaster relief fund were transferred to Nová Paka, Czech Republic. This enabled the local Moravian

Church there to spontaneously take in refugees from a Christian school in Kyiv. Many of the refugees have since returned to Ukraine and their former school, but the Moravian Church has been supporting the school in Kyiv annually with \$25,000 to cover the salaries of several teachers. The teachers send monthly emails to our organization's staff with updates, photos, and prayer requests." You can read [here](#) in English about how the Christian school is faring during wartime, how student numbers are developing, what construction plans exist, and what concerns are weighing on people's minds in their daily lives.

Medical Mission in Suriname Back Online



For ten days, the Medical Mission in Suriname (Medische Zending – Primary Health Care Suriname) was offline due to work on its website. But now there are new, updated webpages. See [here](#). These pages quickly make it clear that the organization operates 58 polyclinics and reaches approximately 55,000 people living across 90 percent of Suriname's

territory. A map showing the organization's locations is available, as is an organizational chart. It further states: "We offer services to promote and monitor the health of local communities (primarily indigenous peoples) as well as Surinamese society as a whole. This is made possible through close coordination with traditional authorities, with the participation of local communities. This model of integrated primary care ensures that both individual and public health care is easily accessible everywhere, especially in remote areas."

An Encouraging Women's Gathering in Aracaju, Brazil



Yolanda Brito Álvarez, from Cuba, a member of the Moravian Church Cuba and an employee of the Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba (Cuban Council of Churches), lives in Jagüey Grande and maintains contact with the new Moravian Churches in eastern Brazil, including the Moravian Church in Aracaju in the state of Sergipe. From there, the report states: "At a

gathering of committed women, hope was in abundance. The women are filled with a unique spirituality in a city where the waters of the Rio Sergipe Bay touch the soul

with every breath.” Some photos [here](#). The meeting focused on Mark 5:21–42, the raising of Jairus’s daughter: “Daughter, arise,” Jesus’ voice echoed to the dead girl. “Daughter, you are healed; go in peace!” we repeat, as Jesus’ hand touched us and we experienced the healing of our negative feelings and thoughts. Yes, all our souls experienced renewal. May the dawn shine brightly! May light and hope become reality!”

A Look at Prakash Thapa's Home Group in New Delhi



The Delhi Moravian Fellowship in the northern Indian megacity is a house church made up of young people and young families. On March 24, 2026, Brother Prakash Thapa’s house group met at his home in K. D. Colony, Sector 12, R. K. Puram, New Delhi. That evening, the congregation posted on Facebook: “Fifteen people attended the meeting. Pastor Ebenezer Gangmei led the house group and preached on the topic What was it like when Abraham sent his servant as a matchmaker to find a daughter-in-law for his son Isaac? (Genesis 24). He emphasized the importance of faith and obedience to God’s Word and guidance. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with the family members. Following the two-hour meeting, there was a shared dinner as well as many lively conversations.” Two photos [here](#).

About the work of the “Inotsiavik Centre” in Hopedale



On March 20, 2026, the Canadian newspaper The Independent published a lengthy article by Frey Black Pijogge about the cultural activities of the Inotsiavik Centre in the Moravian settlement of Hopedale and the surrounding area. The name Inotsiavik means A Good Place to Live. The Inotsiavik Centre is one of several youth-run nonprofit organizations that offers Inuit cultural and Inuttitut programs, thereby contributing to the preservation and revitalization of this ancient, endangered culture. Kim Pilgrim, the center’s executive director, lives in Hopedale but has roots in Makkovik and Postville. A photo accompanying the article shows Nicholas Flowers (23), a young man from Hopedale, artfully preparing a sealskin for use in an Inuit tupik. In his work, he uses the ulu, a tool that belonged to his grandmother. In 2024,

the center won the Arctic Inspiration Prize, which comes with a prize of one million Canadian dollars (approx. 650,000 euros). Read more in English [here](#).

A Brief History of the Work of the Moravian Mission in Labrador



The Canadian newspaper Nunatsiaq News, which is aimed primarily at the indigenous population, reported on February 28, 2026, under the headline Moravian interest in Ungava Bay, on the long-standing work of the Moravian Mission in Labrador—now Nunatsiavut—particularly in Nain and Okak. See [here](#). The article makes clear how the missionaries were

not only concerned with evangelizing the Inuit but also—to finance their work—pursued economic interests and served the interests of white patrons. It acknowledges the mission’s contributions to Labrador’s development and the education of the Inuit and demonstrates how deeply it has shaped the barren region to this day. The author of the article is historian Kenn Harper, who has lived in the Arctic regions for over 50 years and regularly reports on his research in the column Taissumani. See [here](#). There is also much more information there about the Moravian Mission in Labrador.

The world's top mountain bikers rode through Genadendal twice



The *Absa Cape Epic* is an extremely physically and mentally demanding mountain bike stage race. It takes place in South Africa’s Western Cape region, amidst one of Africa’s most beautiful natural landscapes. Each year, the race follows a different route that takes riders through rugged terrain, over rocky climbs, and down thrilling descents. Over the years, the eight-day race has become a landmark event for

mountain bikers worldwide. The race attracts professionals and ambitious amateurs from all over the world, who compete in teams of two. It is a test of skill, fitness, team spirit, equipment, and endurance, offering a riding experience that sets the standard in international mountain biking. Race length: 707 kilometers; Elevation gain: 15,900 meters. A video showing the 2026 route is available [here](#). Stages 4 and 5 of the race,

which took place from March 15 to 22, 2026, passed through Genadendal—a town founded in 1737 by the Moravian missionary Georg Schmidt—last Thursday and Friday. See [here](#).

News in Brief

1. Every year from March 23 to April 2, the members of the European-Continental Unity Province take part in the *Unity Prayer Watch* which traces its origins to the 24-hour prayer practice in the old Herrnhut, introduced in August 1727 and transformed into a global institution in 1957. Current prayer updates from around the world can be found [here](#).
2. From February 27 to March 10, 2026, Herrnhuter Missionshilfe organized a encounter tour to Suriname. Photos from Paramaribo at the start of the trip can be found [here](#). Meetings were also held in the congregations in the tropical interior.
3. Photos and videos from the worship service, the children's service, and the meal that followed at the Moravian Church Erelío Martínez García in Jagüey Grande, Cuba, on March 9, 2026, can be found [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#). There are significantly more women than men actively involved in the Moravian Church in Cuba.
4. At the Medical Mission (Medische Zending – Primary Health Care) in Suriname, women were also given a special welcome and honored on March 8, 2026, International Women's Day. See [here](#).
5. Many more photos from the so-called Reading Days featuring prominent figures from politics, culture, the church, sports, science, the military, and show business, held in early to mid-March 2026 at the Moravian Church elementary schools in Suriname, can be found, for example, [here](#) (Friedrich Stahelin School – with Gregory Rusland, Vice President of the Republic of Suriname), [here](#) (Sheride Franklin School), and [here](#) (R. M. Schmidt School) and [here](#) (Geertruida Pont School).
6. A recent ordination to the office of bishop of the Moravian Church took place at the Great City Church in Paramaribo, Suriname. The service held on February 15, 2026, during which Bishop Davy Pawironadi was installed, can be viewed [here](#) Prior to his election as bishop by the Provincial Synod in late August 2025, Davy Pawironadi had already served for many years as a pastor of the Moravian Church and in leadership roles within the Suriname Unity Province. In fact, he was elected to the church leadership as vice president of the Suriname Unity Province as early as 2017.

7. The Deaconess House in Paramaribo, Suriname, has a problem: when it rains, the basements fill with water because the pumps are broken. However, the basement rooms are crucial to the hospital's infrastructure, including the electrical supply. The Zeister Zendingegenootschap assisted the Moravian Church in the Netherlands by providing four new submersible pumps at a total cost of 4,280 euros. See [here](#).
8. A short video from the International Kindergarten & Shristi Academy of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu-Baneshwor, aptly titled School Activity (Sports, Culture, Reading), can be viewed [here](#).
9. The Missions Museum of the Moravian Church in Genadendal, South Africa, is pleased to introduce two new, young staff members to the museum's educational team: Jerome Diedericks and Kay-Dee Smith. A photo of the two can be found [here](#).
10. To mark World Water Day on March 22, 2026, the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America posted six tiles containing information and questions about water-related issues as they pertain to the worldwide Moravian Church. See [here](#).
11. The March 2026 issue of the missionary journal of the Moravian Church in Denmark, titled Sennepskornet (Mustard Seed), includes, among other things, a profile of a specialized nurse at the Sikonge Mission Hospital in western Tanzania. It also features a review of a new English-language book on African spirituality that challenges Western worldviews. The title of Laurenti Magesa's book is: What is not sacred?. More [here](#).

Impressum

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