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Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

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An important step for young people in Kibaha, Tanzania



Over the past few months, a new Vocational Training Center (VTC) has been established in Kibaha, providing young people with access to hands-on education and new opportunities. Workshops have been set up, infrastructure and electricity have been installed, and classrooms have been equipped with learning materials and technology. This lays the ground for offering future training programs in fields such as

tailoring, electrical engineering, and office work. The goal is to help young women and men enter the workforce and, in the long term, enable them to earn an income and become self-reliant. Special thanks go to the main donor, Wörwag Pharma, as well as to all supporters who made this project possible. The development continues.

Easter 2026 on Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center SMRC



For the second time, the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) near Ramallah in the Palestinian West Bank welcomed a visit from young people from the Young Life Organization, a partner organization. The organization's volunteers took advantage of Easter Monday to carry out a series of recreational and inclusive activities with children and youth with

intellectual disabilities, both indoors at the center and in the beautiful outdoor area. Nine photos [here](#). A few days earlier, the center had promoted its inclusive, international, and interfaith kindergarten. See [here](#). The message read: "Moments full of joy and shared learning happen every day for our children in the inclusive

kindergarten. Together and under qualified guidance, the children improve their skills and very quickly develop a spirit of interaction. Please contact us!"

2025 Annual Report on Occupational Therapy at Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center



The Occupational Therapy Report 2025 from the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) of the worldwide Moravian Church near Ramallah, Palestine (West Bank) has now been published on the website of the Board of World Mission (BWM) of the Moravian Church America North. See the English version [here](#): It states: "The occupational therapist conducted approximately

40 individual and five group sessions (40 minutes each) per week for 34 people with intellectual disabilities (24 men and 10 women). On average, nine occupational therapy sessions took place daily. During the reporting year, occupational therapy interventions focused primarily on the development of daily living skills, fine motor skills, cognitive abilities, sensory integration, and social skills. Fine motor skills were strengthened by promoting hand strength, coordination, and functional hand use to support independence in daily life. All sessions took place in the sensory room of the Rehabilitation Center."

75 years ago, “Jesushilfe” in Jerusalem was transferred to the State of Israel



On April 1, 1951, 75 years ago, the Jesushilfe leper hospital in West Jerusalem was transferred to the ownership of the young State of Israel. For more than 60 years, the Moravian Church had cared for people suffering from leprosy there. The very modest first Jesushilfe was established in 1867, west of the city walls of Old Jerusalem. From 1885 to 1887, the *New Jesushilfe* was then built according to the most

modern medical standards of the time—a two-story building complex with a four-sided inner courtyard, surrounded by a large garden. The Moravian Church provided the nursing staff and house parents; deaconesses from Niesky performed the demanding nursing work. The hospital had 60 beds, occupied primarily by Muslims and only a few Christians and Jews. When the facility was transferred to the newly

founded State of Israel in 1951, it was renamed Hansen House. Today, the building serves as a public cultural center. See [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#). The leprosy work was continued by the Moravian Church starting in 1960 in the West Bank at Star Mountain. In 1980, the leprosy work was discontinued and the new focus was set on working with people with disabilities. This was also confirmed by the Unity Synod of 1981.

The Moravian Church in Albania helps the Roma through Education



Women and children from the Roma community in Albania appreciate the homework assistance and other educational programs they receive from the Moravian Church of Albania. A large number of Roma live on the outskirts of Lezhë in northwestern Albania. Here, the Moravian Church is active under the guidance of the young local pastor, Dena Fortuzi. There are

worship services and classes for children and women from the Roma community.

Dena Fortuzi writes: "The homework project is the most important one. Here, children receive help with learning to read and write in a safe environment. But we also offer programs that promote social development. At the meetings for mothers and women, we explain to them the importance of education and regular school attendance. The mothers want ongoing support so that education can combat marginalization and poverty." Read more [here](#) in an article by Svend Løbner from the Brødremenighedens Danske Mission (BDM) dated April 8, 2026.

The call of the “5th Unity Women’s Consultation” was successful

The call issued by the 5th Unity Women’s Consultation in early February 2026 in Arusha, Tanzania, urging women in the global Moravian Church to participate in the ecumenical initiative *Thursday’s in Black* has been met with a very positive response. The Unity Women’s Desk (UWD) in Winston-Salem, NC, wrote on March 26, 2026: “From India to Zambia to Cuba and on to North Carolina. Everywhere, members of the Moravian Church are participating in the



Thursday's in Black campaign and are thus advocating for an end to gender-based violence. We are delighted when men and children also join the campaign and support this movement, because gender-based violence harms us all." A Thursday photo from northern India [here](#). Related photos from the UK [here](#), from Malawi [here](#), from Danmark [here](#), from Czeck [here](#), from Cuba [here](#), from Jamaica [here](#), from Costa Rica [here](#). A small collection of photos [here](#).

New container of relief supplies is on its way to Cuba



On March 31, 2026, the following was posted on Facebook: "It is with great joy and gratitude that the Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation announces that it has accomplished an important milestone. Another large shipping container is leaving Lexington, North Carolina, this week, bound for Cuba. The container is filled with food, medicine, and other relief

supplies urgently needed by the people of Cuba (a total of 15 tons)—a reflection of the actual needs of the communities we work with. The photo shows Joe Jarvis and Ron Vogler bringing wheelchairs and bicycles to be loaded into the shipping container. See [here](#). We wish you a blessed Holy Week! And then. The Ebenezer Moravian Church in Santa Clara, in central Cuba, celebrated Palm Sunday today, praising the name of our Lord. Photos [here](#).«

Introducing: Joe Jarvis from the Friedberg Moravian Church



The Moravian Church in America recently introduced Joe Jarvis of Winston-Salem, NC: He is vice-chair of the Board of World Mission (BWM) and chair of the Finance Committee. He has supported mission projects throughout his life. However, his commitment deepened following a trip to the Moravian Church in Cuba with Bishop Samuel Gray in 2013. Today, he serves as president of the Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation, the Moravian

Church's Cuba foundation and a close partner of the BWM. Through this work, Joe Jarvis gathers valuable insights and experiences that he shares with the BWM. He says, "I hope my contributions will benefit the BWM as we collaborate with our global partners and individual Moravian congregations worldwide." When Joe Jarvis isn't working for the BWM or the Cuba Foundation, he enjoys traveling and is passionate about classic sports cars. He also spends a lot of time with his family. More [here](#).

“Little Church on the Lane” in Charlotte, North Carolina, received a mission award



The Moravian Church Little Church on the Lane in Charlotte, NC, received a special award from the Board of World Mission (BWM) on March 8, 2026, in recognition of its exemplary missionary commitment: the Herrnhut Congregational Affirmation. An article about it can be found [here](#). The name of the award is intended to commemorate the missionary zeal in old

Herrnhut beginning in 1732, which soon gave rise to a worldwide church. The congregation receives the award because it has had a heart for Sierra Leone since the 1970s. A personal connection with the couple Mohamed and Safiatu Braima from Sierra Leone gave rise to an initiative that ultimately led to the founding of the Moravian Church in Sierra Leone at the beginning of the 21st century, starting with projects in the town of Luawa Yiehun (a secondary school, a church, a mission house, a library, and a freshwater cistern). There are now five Moravian congregations in Sierra Leone.

From the Moravian Church in the Peruvian Amazon region



Several congregations in the Peruvian Amazon region have recently joined the Moravian Church. On behalf of the Board of World Mission (BWM) of the Moravian Church, Will Cuthbert recently traveled to Peru and gave a detailed report on March 24, 2026. The lengthy report, written in English, begins as follows: "The journey to the Amazon region was very difficult due to poor road and weather conditions. It

took us 16 to 17 hours by car to reach Nieva (the starting point for the boat trip upriver). The strong current made the journey risky, but the people here have learned to live with it. I must say, they are truly skilled at boating. We arrived safely in Bajo Canampa and thanked God for it. The people in the village welcomed us very warmly with a delicious lunch. In Bajo Canampa, Evangelina Domingo rushed up to us, holding a book in her hands. She said: "I've been a Christian since 1997 and never thought I'd be able to sing these songs in my native language, 'Aguaruna,' one day. "Thank you for your help with the translation." More from other places and other people, including former alcoholic Alberto, who is now—after a life-changing turn—pastor of the Chapi Moravian Church, [here](#).

Renovation of the restrooms at the “Siswa Tama” boarding school completed



In September 2025, approximately 8,900 euros in funding was needed to renovate the dilapidated sanitary facilities at the Siswa Tama girls' boarding school run by the Moravian Church in Paramaribo, Suriname. The funds were received, allowing the work to be carried out last quarter. Now, word from Suriname reports: "With great pride and gratitude, we are pleased to announce that the renovation of the bathrooms and toilets at the girls' boarding school has been completed, marking an important step toward improving the living conditions of the 65 young people who live here at the boarding school and attend classes. The renovation involved a thorough process carried out in six phases (each comprising two bathrooms and one toilet) while the boarding school remained in operation. The following were replaced per unit: a complete toilet with a flush tank and toilet seat, a sink with a faucet and mirror, two shower stalls, and four new doors. On behalf of the girls at the Siswa Tama boarding school: Thank you very much!" Press release [here](#).

Three stories from North India

- The Moravian Institute in Rajpur, northern India, located at the foot of the winding Old Mussoorie Road that climbs up into the Himalayas, is recruiting new students: "Applications for grades 9 and 11 at our school for the 2026–2027



school year are now being accepted. Join our prestigious institution and shape your future with us." See [here](#).

- The children at the Moravian Mission School in Leh, Ladakh—a town of 30,000 residents located at an altitude of 3,506 meters—come from diverse ethnic backgrounds and speak different native languages. That's why they recently

celebrated a Language Day. Watch the video [here](#).

- Traditionally, the relatively new Delhi Moravian Fellowship celebrates major church holidays outdoors. When all the congregation members gather, there isn't enough room in the usual meeting spaces. On Easter 2026, the congregation gathered in the large *Nehru Park*. See [here](#).

Missionaries report on their new assignment in Tanzania



Svend Løbner of the Brødremenighedens Danske Mission (BDM) in Christiansfeld (DK) posted an article on March 26, 2026, about the work of two missionaries from the organization in northwestern Tanzania. The article is titled: "Janice and Mads' Tour of the Mwanza District." See the Danish version [here](#). At their new mission field, the missionaries are being

introduced to the congregations and are preparing a course for Sunday school leaders. In early March 2026, they visited Kiabakari, Musoma, Tarime, Mugumu, and Isenye (all in the Mara region) with the district chairman of Mwanza, Pastor Mlewa, and his wife, Pastor Subira. The photo shows Janice together with leaders and children from the Kiabakari congregation. Many members in the congregations the couple visited were Tanzanian internal migrants: some were well-paid, transferred government officials. Lutherans often decide to join the Moravian Church if there is no Lutheran church in their neighborhood, and vice versa.

Lots of good news from Genadendal

- Celest Adonis and Dan van der Berg won the contest titled "Who Can Take the Best Photo of Genadendal?"—organized by the Moravian



Church Mission Museum in Genadendal, South Africa—with a heartwarming photo taken beneath the stone bell arch. See [here](#).

- As early as March 23, 2026, the museum welcomed guests who had traveled a long way: men and women from the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Photos [here](#).

- The museum shop is offering a new product: Original Genadendaler Jam, a symphony of flavors, available in blueberry, strawberry, peach, and tomato varieties. See [here](#).
- A glimpse of historic Genadendal is brought to life through AI-generated restoration of a black-and-white photo of a house on Bergstraße from the 1940s. Short video [here](#).
- The museum commemorates the Scottish poet and abolitionist Thomas Pringle, who stayed in Genadendal in early 1824. See [here](#). The poet had suffered a riding accident and broken his leg, which forced him to stay in Genadendal for an extended period and changed his life.

A Position Paper on Decolonizing Missionary Thinking Has Been Published



From a newsletter of the Evangelical Mission Worldwide (EMW) dated March 31, 2026: “...but he went on his way rejoicing.’ (Acts 8:39) – A high-ranking royal treasurer from Ethiopia comes to faith in God and is baptized. A businesswoman from Philippi meets Paul, and she too is baptized “along with her household.”

These are the first baptized people the Bible tells us about after Jesus’ resurrection. Both individuals were likely of higher social standing than their missionaries, Philip and Paul. These biblical accounts tell of two encounters between equals. This makes it all the more remarkable that, in the later, colonial-era history of missions, hierarchical and discriminatory structures often developed: between those who send and those who are supposed to receive. Such power imbalances continue to have an impact to this day.” A 23-page discussion paper on decolonizing old missionary thinking is available [here](#).

News in Brief

1. You can find many photos from the worship service of the Bethlehem Moravian Church in Havana, Cuba, on March 22, 2026, [here](#). A guest attended this service: Will Cuthbert, who has been commissioned by the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church to provide evangelistic support, particularly to the congregations in the Latin American Unity Region.
2. A research study titled The Impact of Water Filter Distribution in La Mosquitia, Honduras was published on Facebook by the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America on March 23, 2026. See [here](#) (click on the logo to view the PDF).
3. Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week were celebrated in a special way this year in the Moravian churches in Albania. Several photos from the services held on March 29, 2026, in the capital city of Tirana and in Bathore, as well as in various parts of the country, can be found [here](#).
4. On March 13, 2026, Deutschlandfunk Nova aired a feature by Wiebke Lehnhoff: The History of Greenland – Missionary Work from 1721 Onward. The origins of the Moravian Church (listen [here](#) starting at 20:35) are presented respectfully here; from 28:30 onward, the focus shifts to their missionary activities in Greenland. The overall assessment remains cautious—including in the voices of the Greenlanders interviewed. See also: Greenland – Settlement and Danish Colonial Policy. See [here](#).
5. For the duration of the 2026 Easter break, the Educational Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname (Stichting Onderwijs der EBGs) has invited all children, divided into two age groups, to participate in a drawing contest. See [here](#). The assignment: “Draw a picture showing how we can help take good care of the environment!” The prize: The best drawings will be published.
6. A special guest is expected to attend the Moravian Church’s Mission Festival in Christiansfeld, Denmark, on May 10, 2026: Wilson Nkumba, the general secretary of the Sikonge Mission Hospital of the Moravian Church, which has been serving approximately 120,000 people in western Tanzania for 103 years. More [here](#).
7. Bethlehem Moravian College, a vocational school of the Moravian Church in Malvern/St. Elisabeth in southern Jamaica, is showcasing its campus and dormitories through short student testimonials and invites you to an open house on April 30, 2026. Watch the video [here](#).
8. The Moravian Church bookstore, located in the Stadtmission building in downtown Paramaribo, Suriname, showcases its selection and some special offers in a short video. See [here](#). The Stadtmission is the Moravian Church’s traditional service and community center in Suriname.

9. Important documents are now available for download on the website Newfoundland & Labrador - The Office of Indigenous Affairs and Reconciliation, including those relating to the specific rights and land claims of the Inuit in the former Moravian mission stations of Hopedale, Nain, and Makkovik, such as treaty texts, maps, and the "Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Implementation Plan" for a total of 7,000 Inuit. See [here](#).

Impressum

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