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# Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

## Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Ausgabe 2026-09 vom 13. Mai 2026

### Project trip to Albania



In late April 2026, Bettina Nasgowitz, Kerstin Heim, and Markus Kuhn from Herrnhuter Missionshilfe traveled to Albania to visit various partner projects and congregations and to strengthen ties with local leaders. The trip was accompanied by Dena Fortuzi, pastor of the Moravian Church in Albania. During the five-day trip, numerous discussions took place regarding current project work, challenges, and future

developments. Among others, the group visited congregations in Pogradec, Elbasan, Burrel, Tirana, Bathore, and Lezhe. The itinerary also included visits to several kindergartens, the sewing project in Burrel, and the camp in Pogradec. The trip provided an opportunity to learn about ongoing projects firsthand and to further strengthen cooperation with partners in Albania.

### New training facilities at the AWTC are nearing completion



At the Atsikana Walani Technical College (AWTC) in Malawi, construction work on two new training buildings is making great progress. The buildings for the motorcycle mechanics and food processing and culinary arts programs are now nearing completion. With this expansion, the AWTC is adding two hands-on programs to its curriculum, designed to open up new career opportunities for young women. Especially in

Malawi, where unemployment and economic uncertainty pose a major challenge for many families, qualified vocational training is of particular importance. The new facilities will provide modern and safe learning environments where practical skills

are taught and career opportunities are created. With the expansion of the training center, the AWTC continues to invest in the advancement of young women and in their ability to eventually earn their own income and build a self-determined life.

## Labor Day in Zanzibar – Encounters, Exchange, and Shared Responsibility



On May 1, 2026, Herrnhuter Missionshilfe's partner organization, Tanzania Mwangaza TAM, celebrated Labor Day in Zanzibar together with staff, partners, and other supporters. The focus was on the people who dedicate themselves daily to education, training, and development projects. During the event, participants looked back on the collaborative work of the past months. Particularly dedicated staff members were recognized, and there was a discussion about future goals, collaboration, and the further development of the projects. It became clear once again how important motivated staff and strong partnerships are for the successful implementation of projects—especially in the areas of education and vocational training for young people and disadvantaged groups. Cultural performances and personal interactions rounded out the day and highlighted the strong collaboration between the participating organizations.

## New specialized service launched in Tanzania and Malawi



On May 3, 2026, Olaf Hirschmann and his wife departed for Tanzania to begin a three-year assignment. In his new role, Olaf Hirschmann will serve as a specialist supporting the Moravian Church's health-related work in Tanzania and Malawi. As a former consultant for International Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Difäm (German Institute for Medical Mission), he brings many years of experience in international health cooperation. Together with the local partner organizations Tanzania Mwangaza (TAM) in Tanzania and MoHDevs (Moravian Humanitarian and Development Services) in Malawi, existing health projects will be supported and further developed. The deployment is taking place in cooperation with Difäm and is jointly supported and funded by Brot für die Welt/Dienste in

Übersee and Herrnhuter Missionshilfe. We are very pleased about this collaboration and wish the Hirschmanns a good start, many enriching encounters, and a smooth transition to life in East Africa.

## Two religious leaders in Mwanza are working to promote peace



Sheikh Musa Kalwany and Pastor Elias Mlewa support one another and encourage their congregations to promote peace despite their differences. They offer comfort to the families of victims of violence following the 2025 presidential election. “As a Muslim sheikh, I can sit down with Pastor Mlewa even though he is a Christian. He is even my advisor!” explains the

sheikh. But Christians and Muslims in Tanzania have not always spoken peacefully with one another. “In the past, there were violent conflicts. People killed one another, and Muslims fought against Christians. Peaceful coexistence between Muslims and Christians was impossible,” the sheikh recalls. “Now we have peace and harmony.” In 2015, the Tanzanian government established a forum for conflict resolution and the promotion of reconciliation. Religious leaders meet to prepare events such as the Day of Reconciliation. “There is a great need for healing in Tanzania. We pray for a humble, repentant heart—and for the government and its officials,” says Pastor Elias Mlewa. Read more in an article by the Moravian Church in Denmark [here](#) (pp. 8-9).

## Roberta Hoey Receives an Honorary Doctorate



On April 30, 2026, Moravian University in Bethlehem, PA, announced that Roberta Hoey, Chairperson of the Unity Board and a member of the Provincial Board of the British Province, will be awarded an honorary doctorate in law on May 9, 2026, in Bethlehem, PA, “in recognition of her groundbreaking leadership and tireless commitment to social justice.” At just 32 years

old, she was elected Chairperson of the Unity Board, the highest governing body of the global Moravian Church between synods. She is the youngest person ever to hold this office, as well as the second layperson and second woman to lead the global Moravian Church. She grew up in Northern Ireland during a time of conflict

and demonstrated a cross-community commitment to peacebuilding even then. She earned a Bachelor of Laws from Queen's University in Belfast and a Master's degree in Human Rights and Criminal Justice from the Catholic University of America. More [here](#).

## From the Mission Festival of the Moravian Church in Christiansfeld



At the Mission Festival of the Moravian Church in Christiansfeld, Denmark, on May 10, 2026, Jørgen Bøytler, chairman of the Brødremenighedens Danske Mission (BDM), emphasized how important it is for a Christian movement to act with flexibility, attentiveness, and responsibility. He spoke particularly critically about the misuse of religious language to justify war and violence. Guest speaker Wilson Nkumba from Tanzania (Western Province) spoke about the vital work of the Moravian Mission Hospital in Sikonge, of which he is the director. Furthermore, the Mission Festival highlighted how BDM works to support congregations in Albania, through health projects on Lake Tanganyika, by deploying missionaries and young volunteers in Tanzania, and by accompanying Moravian congregations in war-torn eastern Congo. Despite a positive year-end financial report, BDM faces the need for cost-cutting measures. "We are in urgent need of intercession and financial support from BDM members and friends, and we must present a very clear message in a chaotic world to capture the public's attention," said Jørgen Bøytler. Photos [here](#).

## Coming to terms with the history of slavery



For about 15 years, the Netherlands as a nation, along with many social groups and organizations within the country, has been working to critically examine its own history of slavery in cooperation with the descendants of those affected. The Moravian Church in the Netherlands and the Zeister Zendinggenootschap (ZZg) are also tackling this important task with considerable financial and human resources and are opening their archives. In this context, another *Annual National Memorial Service on the History of Slavery* will take place on June 27, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in St. John's

Cathedral in 's-Hertogenbosch, Torenstraat 16. The theme is Hopeful on the Path to a Better Future in Solidarity. The memorial service is organized by the Council of Churches in the Netherlands and the Foundation for the Reconciliation of the Past of Slavery. The Moravian Church calls for participation.

## From the Moravian Church in Burundi and Uganda



The Moravian Church in Burundi in the Kirundo District marked International Women's Day on March 8, 2026, with a fundraising campaign initiated by women to support the construction of a church building located very close to the Kirundo District office. A two-and-a-half-minute video is available [here](#). A Facebook post by the Moravian Church in Uganda on April 15, 2026,

states: "In our church, four women from two congregations in Kayunga District are benefiting from a pig-rearing project. The women were carefully selected and trained to properly care for the piglets from day one. It is hoped that the piglets will become a source of income for the women, enabling them to support themselves in the future. Once the project has expanded, these women will pass on the grown female pigs to other selected women." Pictures [here](#).

## Indian couple is now serving in Tanzania



Since March 2026, Dimchui Rongmei and his wife Dimjeng Rongmei from India have been serving for a planned eleven months in the South West Province of the Moravian Church in Tanzania. They say they have settled in well. A photo sent by Dimchui Rongmei shows him administering Holy Communion to members of a congregation in Mbeya who are in need of

care. Dimjeng Rongmei works primarily with women and children in Tanzania. The couple on this overseas mission hails from Latingkhal in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur. Dimchui Rongmei was ordained as deacon of the Moravian Church by Bishop Joachim Kreusel on October 23, 2022, in Leh, Ladakh. He then served as pastor of the Leh congregation. He received his formative education at the Moravian Institute, the Moravian Church's boarding school, in Rajpur near Dehradun. He completed his theological studies at the Dehradun New Theological College.

## The Moravian Church is expanding in Uganda



In 2009, inspired by the Moravian Church in Tabora, Tanzania, Julius Mubiru founded the *Moravian Church in Uganda*, which today has 7,000 members across ten congregations. Recently, the church has been doing pioneering work on an island in Lake Victoria, where it operates a school with 150 students and a health clinic. The students are taught under

trees because there are no school buildings yet. During a meeting with Julius Mubiru in the Ugandan capital of Kampala, it becomes clear that the triumphant advance of the Gospel is unstoppable. Julius Mubiru is the chairman of the Moravian Church in Uganda. Currently, 15 pastors and evangelists serve in the Uyakwe political district on Lake Victoria. “We want to strengthen society as a whole,” says Julius Mubiru. “There is a great demand for the Gospel. We already have three congregations on the island. In one location, we own a plot of land where we can build a church.” More [here](#) (p. 3).

## “British Mission Board” Launches New Website



The British Mission Board (BMB), the HMM’s partner organization in the British Province, recently launched a new, informative website. See [here](#). The new website not only describes the organizational structure but also introduces those regions within the global Moravian Church with which the BMB maintains special relationships: the Moravian Church in South Asia and the Moravian Church in Western Tanzania,

as well as three institutions: the Elim Home in South Africa, the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Palestine, and the Sikonge Mission Hospital near Tabora in Tanzania. Finally, there is information about the bodies in which the BMB participates worldwide, such as the Unity Mission and Development Board (UMDB). With only 1,100 members, the British Province is the second-smallest church in the worldwide Moravian Church.

## Nutrition Day at the “G.V. Kalender School”



A Nutrition Day held on April 28, 2026, at the G. V. Kalender School in Paramaribo, Suriname, focused on proper nutrition and quality school meals. The school currently has 120 students. A long-term project was launched on that day. A Facebook post stated: "Good school nutrition is an important step in children's development. Suriname must focus on its own food production so that our food does not have to be

brought in from distant places. With this approach, we also support local agriculture and enjoy healthy food. Every social program must be linked to the Suriname Production Program. These were the key points from the speech by Her Excellency Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, who served as President of the National Assembly of Suriname until 2020." Photos [here](#).

## Three news stories from Suriname



- The Moravian Church in Suriname has posted seven job openings in Paramaribo for positions in administration and service operations to be filled shortly, including "Director of the Zinzendorf Hostel" and "Cook". See [here](#).

- From April 25 to May 2, 2026, the Pan American Immunization Week took place in Suriname,

organized by Medische Zending. The slogan was: Your decision makes the difference. This year, the campaign focused on protecting children. The message was: "Vaccination at a young age is essential for healthy growth and a strong start in life. Vaccination protects not only yourself, but also your family and society." See [here](#).

- A group from the Netherlands from the Wolfert Tweetalig School, a school for bilingual secondary education, traveled to Suriname in April 2026 and provided practical assistance at the H. C. Tiendallschool in Paramaribo-Latour, which is part of the Moravian Church School Foundation in Suriname. Photos [here](#).

## Medical personnel from the U.S. Air Force trained in Suriname



The U.S. Air Force tests its medical readiness annually during an exercise called LAMAT (Lesser Antilles Medical Assistance Team), which also helps strengthen healthcare systems in the Caribbean and build lasting partnerships. In the second half of April 2026, 46 medical professionals from the U.S. traveled to Suriname as part of LAMAT 2026, where they primarily

supported the local teams of the Medische Zending in Paramaribo, Nickerie, and Brownsweg in coordination with the Surinamese Ministry of Health. The U.S. Air Force Medical Service reported on April 29, 2026. See [here](#). "LAMAT is not about one nation offering something to another, but about us building something together," said Brigadier General Eveline Yao, Special Assistant to the Commander of the Air Force Medical Service. "Patients receive excellent care, and the medical teams from Suriname and the U.S. are strengthened and prepared for crisis situations."

## German long-haul tourists in Genadendal



*Adventure Offroad* a company specializing in long-distance tourism and based in Oberreichenbach, Germany, had offered a tour from Morocco to South Africa via the so-called Western Route. This tour, which was undertaken primarily by Germans, reached its destination on April 29, 2026: the Cape of Good Hope. On April 22, 2026, the tour group stayed in the

municipality of Genadendal, South Africa. A group member wrote on Facebook: "At the Genadendal Mission Museum, we learned about a relatively unknown yet very significant piece of South African history. Genadendal was the very first mission station in southern Africa, established in 1738. The German missionary Georg Schmidt was sent by the Moravian Church to what was then the Dutch Cape Colony." The museum staff were delighted by this very special group. Photos [here](#).

## News in Brief

1. The Brødremenighedens Danske Mission in Christiansfeld, Denmark, has hired 32-year-old Camilla Ny Buhl as its new fundraising assistant. She holds a master's degree in communication studies from the University of Southern Denmark and has gained experience working at an industrial company and a labor union. Read an interview with her [here](#).

2. On April 24, 2026, Douwe van Barneveld, who until recently served as chief financial officer of the Zeister Zendingsgenootschap (ZZg) in the Netherlands, received an honorary award for his outstanding service to the church and society. He is now a member of the Order of Orange-Nassau. More [here](#).
3. On April 25, 2026, the Purkal Youth Development Society held a workshop on artificial intelligence for ninth- and tenth-graders at the Moravian Institute in Rajpur, near Dehradun, in northern India. It was both entertaining and exciting. Read more [here](#).
4. On April 26, 2026, a Youth Convention for young people from all parishes on the island was held in St. Philip, Barbados, on the grounds of the *King George V. Memoriak Park*. The theme of the festive service and the other activities for children and youth was: Grounded in Faith. United in Christ. See [here](#).
5. From April 23 to 26, 2026, a General Bible Conference was held in Bethel, Alaska, concluding on Sunday with a worship service, a communal lunch, and a celebration of the Lord's Supper. The detailed schedule for the week can be viewed [here](#). A lovely photo from Easter morning 2026 in Hopedale, Labrador, can be found [here](#).
6. In late April 2026, the Moravian Mission School in Leh, Ladakh, northern India, held a Math Week for students from middle school through high school. A Facebook post described the event as follows: "All the students demonstrated their brilliance. Math isn't just about equations; it's about creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. A wonderful week, a week full of learning, fun, and mathematical magic." See [here](#).
7. The *Herrnhut Mission Switzerland* will hold a Tanzania Day in Basel on Sunday, May 17, 2026. Bishop Robert Pangani and Chair of the Provincial Board Paul Samuel Mwambalawa from the South West Province of the Moravian Church Tanzania will be attending.
8. Five photos of the festive ordination of John Mutengo Sichilima as a bishop of the Moravian Church by Bishop Conrad Nguvumali Sikombe of Tanzania on April 26, 2026, on the grounds of the Moravian Church in Lusaka, Zambia, can be found [here](#).
9. Children of all ages at the International Kindergarten & Shristi Academy of the Moravian Church in Kathmandu-Baneshwor, Nepal, are promoting new enrollments at the school with fun short videos. See [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).
10. South Africa's Stellenbosch University has now published a 162-page thesis by Rudolph Zacharias Joorst on the topic: The history of the Moravian Brass Band Union of South Africa (BBSA) as told through the personal histories of members, and its contemporary role in the Moravian Church in South Africa (MCSA). The very first chapter (pp. 5-11) explores the missionary background of the BBSA's founding. Download [here](#).

11. A total of 23 bishops from various countries gathered for the Moravian Church's first global online prayer meeting on March 30, 2026. The event was prompted by current crises and conflicts around the world, including the bombings in Iran and Lebanon, as well as natural disasters and economic challenges in other regions. Together, they prayed for peace, hope, and the people affected by these events.
12. On June 6, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Moravian Church in The Hague will commemorate the mass immigration of people of Indian descent to Suriname and the Netherlands in the 19th and 20th centuries. A Hindustani Day of Encounter is intended to bring the history of immigration to mind and celebrate it; after all, this immigration gave rise to a new diversity of culture, faith, music, and food. Personal life stories will be shared, and attendees are encouraged to share their own stories.
13. The Moravian Church in Tanzania (Rukwa Province) operates an orphanage in Kilangala with the support of the Zeister Zendinggenootschap and the *Stichting Trijntje Beimers* in the Netherlands. New babies are only admitted on a temporary basis in emergency situations. Director Aaron and his team work with the village elders to find new homes for the orphanage children. Two photos [here](#).

### **Impressum**

Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Badwasen 6 · 73087 Bad Boll · Deutschland

+49 (0)7164 9421-0 · [info@herrnhuter-missionshilfe.de](mailto:info@herrnhuter-missionshilfe.de)

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