



Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

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A new project to improve mental health is being developed



The Moravian Church in Tanzania – Eastern Province (MCT-EP) has joined forces with Tanzania Mwangaza (TAM) to launch a new pilot project in the field of mental health and psychosocial support. At an initial meeting in Chamazi, representatives of the church leadership and staff from TAM came together to discuss the programme's objectives and next steps. It was important to incorporate the

experiences and needs of local people from the very beginning. The planned project aims to raise awareness of mental health, break down prejudices and provide better support for people in difficult life situations. At the same time, it aims to empower communities to create spaces for companionship, listening and mutual support. This joint dialogue now forms the basis for the programme's further development.

The children at Star Mountain are having fun making biscuits



The Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre SMRC located near Ramallah in the West Bank, recently posted on Facebook: "We are delighted to share with you the joyful atmosphere that the children in our nursery and school programmes were able to experience last May. A volunteer specialising in education led a special activity.

This was all about making biscuits to mark the annual Festival of Sacrifice (Eid al-Adha), the most important festival in Islam, which takes place every year on the tenth day of the Islamic month of Dhū l-Hijjah. The children participated wholeheartedly and with great enthusiasm in every stage of the

biscuit-making process. They had smiles on their faces throughout. The activity, which ended with the children eating the biscuits, strengthened their sense of togetherness and willingness to work as a team. At the same time, it offered an opportunity to further develop practical life skills and social skills through playful learning and positive interaction." Lots of photos [here](#).

A new role for mission societies in Denmark?



Arngeir Langås, General Secretary of the Brødremenighedens Danske Mission (BDM) in Christiansfeld, Denmark, commented in an article in BDM nyt (issue 2-2026) on a potential new role for mission societies in Denmark.

Following the entry into force of a new State Church Act on 1 January 2026, he sees a new opportunity to utilise the expertise of mission societies in supporting church development. The new law states: "The parish council is responsible for the work of the Danish (State) Church in the parish and must create a good framework for the proclamation of the Gospel, church services, church activities, teaching, diaconal work and mission." This is about mission, says Arngeir Langås. The relationship between the church and mission has changed in recent years. Mission societies such as BDM could support the Danish State Church in its tasks. Since 1870, BDM has sent out over a thousand missionaries from Denmark, mainly to Africa and Asia. They are experts when it comes to mission. BDM's successes are impressive. More [here](#) (pp. 12-13).

Danish nurses helped out at Sikonge Hospital



Susanne Bach-Jensen and Christina Nielsen from the hospital in Holbæk on Zealand, Denmark's largest island, travelled to Tanzania as early as 2025 to share their expertise with staff at the Sikonge Mission Hospital run by the Moravian Church in Tanzania (Western Province). This was announced by the Brødremenighedens Danske Mission (BDM) in Christiansfeld on 5 June 2026.

A longer article by Svend Løbner [here](#). Both women otherwise work in the A&E department at Holbæk Hospital. Their experience and guidance proved helpful for the historic mission hospital. Christina Nielsen had already worked as a nurse in Greenland on several occasions, so being outside the country's borders was nothing

new to her. For Susanne Bach-Jensen, however, such a mission was a new experience. The women had prepared themselves particularly well for the treatment of severe burns, which are common in rural Africa because the population cooks over open fires. The volunteers were given an extremely warm welcome and celebrated in Sikonge. Grateful and deeply moved by the disparity in poverty between Denmark and Tanzania, they returned home.

Anniversary: 80 Years of Medical Service in Ahuas



On 16 June 2026, the Clínica Evangélica Morava in Ahuas, in the Honduran Mosquitia, will celebrate its 80th anniversary. What once began as a small mission outpost has developed into a medical centre offering a wide range of services to support tens of thousands of patients. Four recent photos [here](#). Dr Dominga was able to complete her medical studies thanks to a scholarship from the Board of World Mission

(BWM) of the Moravian Church in North America and is now an indispensable member of the medical team – a striking testament to the importance of long-standing relationships. A nurse from Ahuas is currently studying medicine with the help of a similar scholarship. Construction work is underway on a new medical centre to house the clinic's growing team. The nutrition programme for young children, which feeds dozens of children in and around Ahuas every day, remains indispensable.

The Board of World Mission's 2025 Annual Report has been published



The 2025 Annual Report of the Board of World Mission (BWM) in North America is published in English on pages 13 to 39 of the quarterly magazine of the Moravian Church North America, *The Moravian* (Issue 2-2026). See [here](#). The report is entitled: What we have built together. It introduces the Board of Directors. It then provides a detailed account of the BWM's

support for the Moravian Church in Honduras in the Mosquitia region. There are also short articles on aid for Ukraine, disaster relief and the BWM's youth work. The report also mentions the newly emerging Moravian Church in Brazil. It looks back on

the so-called Panama Process, a term referring to the closer cooperation between the Moravian Churches in Latin America, as well as the BWM's commitment to debt relief for heavily indebted countries, particularly in the Global South. Naturally, the usual information on the BWM's finances for the year 2025 is also included.

Introducing: The BWM Summer Interns 2026



In 2026, potential future leaders will once again have the opportunity to undertake a summer internship with the Board of World Mission (BWM) of the Moravian Church in North America. Katie, Tenna and Wil will have the chance to prove themselves through mission work, summer camps and a visit to the Moravian Church in Peru. At home, they will help BWM to

write global partnership stories. Behind the scenes, they will work to develop missionary resources within the congregations. Katie Owens grew up at the Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, PA. She is studying genetics and developmental biology. Tennessee Derenne grew up at the West Side Moravian Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where the Moravian Church was a cornerstone of her life. She is studying fisheries and wildlife management. Wilberth Weiß grew up in Managua, Nicaragua. He later moved to Miami, Florida. The Moravian Church shaped his path in both places. He is studying computer science at Florida International University.

Raised awareness of the dangers of high blood pressure



On 1 June 2026, Medische Zending – Primary Health Care Suriname raised awareness among the people of Goejaba, a village in the rainforest in the district of Sipaliwini, about the dangers of high blood pressure. A medical information session at the polyclinic attracted considerable interest in the village deep in the south of Suriname, as there is generally little health

education provided there. Twenty-eight residents of Goejaba now have a thorough understanding of the causes, risks and prevention options regarding high blood pressure, as well as the importance of regular blood pressure checks. The Medical Mission in Suriname writes: "Our thanks go to our colleagues Marijke Pomba and Mariska Baino, who have taken on this task with great dedication and expertise. Time

and again, we work in Suriname to promote healthier communities through education, prevention and a healthcare system accessible to all.” Two photos [here](#).

Medical supplies transported from Paramaribo to Stoelmanseiland



Anyone wishing to transport goods into the tropical interior of Suriname, where there are hardly any roads, faces major logistical challenges. This is illustrated by a report published on 3 June 2026 by Medische Zending – Primary Health Care on the transport of medical equipment from Paramaribo to the health post in Stoelmanseiland, Sipaliwini District. See [here](#).

The goods, some of which were delicate, were first transported by road to Papatam in Albina, where they were transferred from motor vehicles onto korjale boats for the onward journey across the Marowijne River into the interior. Careful stowage on the narrow boats was essential to ensure a safe river journey. The journey continued towards Langatabbetje and finally to Stoelmanseiland. This operation highlights just how important a functioning logistics chain is in the healthcare sector, particularly in the interior of the country. Thanks to teamwork, the operation was a success.

The focus in Drietabbetje on the Marowijne River was on dental health



One of the most remote settlements in the world, home to a Moravian Church school and a Medische Zending clinic, is Drietabbetje on the Marowijne River, deep in the tropical rainforest of Suriname. Yet even here, children’s dental health is a key concern. On 5 June 2026, pupils in Years 1 to 3 therefore took part in a lesson on dental health followed by a dental check-up,

carried out by healthcare assistants from the Medische Zending in Suriname at the local polyclinic. Proper toothbrushing and a healthy diet for children were also key topics. Many abstract, unfamiliar-sounding concepts such as oral hygiene and dental prophylaxis were taught to the children in a playful way. This activity was part of the national school health programme, which aims to identify and treat health problems in children across all regions of the country at an early stage. More information and photos [here](#).

Donations from the Netherlands are helping the Moravian Theological Centre in Cape Town



The Zeister Zendingsgenootschap (ZZg) in the Netherlands reported on Facebook on 3 June 2026: "In 2024, we supported the Moravian Theological Centre in Cape Town-Heideveld with a donation of 10,000 euros. Thanks to this support, students were able to continue their education, sit exams and prepare for their work in the church. A remarkable result: three

theology students – Rosy Engel, Fundiswa Ngubo and Verona Turner-Solomons – have completed their Bachelor's degrees in Theology and are now serving in various Moravian congregations across South Africa. The ZZg's support not only makes their studies possible, but also contributes towards accommodation, medical care, consultation fees and travel costs. The Moravian Theological Centre would like to thank the ZZg donors on behalf of all the students who have benefited from this support!". Some photos [here](#).

Ten baptisms in Kanyange, Burundi



The Moravian Church in Burundi recently announced the following on Facebook: "On Sunday 31 May, a baptismal service was held in the Kanyange congregation in the Karusi church district for those who wished to become new creations. Ten people became children of God, including two adults and eight minors. Two Christians who wished to join the Moravian Church from other congregations were also

publicly welcomed. All those gathered praised God on this day, particularly because the last baptisms, especially for children, had taken place several years ago. The whole congregation was filled with joy." Some pictures [here](#). At the same time, the list was displayed on this Sunday, indicating which congregation member is due to lead the prayer service on which calendar day in the run-up to the next Provincial Synod, beginning on 19 July 2026 – in 45 days' time. See the list [here](#).

Luis Felipe Franco Laffitte has passed away in Jagüey Grande



The Moravian Church Cuba mourns the passing of one of its most prominent members: with the death of Luis Felipe Franco Laffitte (Franco de Jagüey) on 7 June 2026, the community has lost not only a great artist, but also a compassionate man and a pillar of the Jagüey Grande community. For more than fifty years, he devoted his talent and his heart to art and

culture in Cuba. His artistic legacy can be seen throughout Jagüey Grande, ranging from murals and sculptures to portraits. He generously donated many of his beautiful paintings to be sold by the Cuba Foundation of the Moravian Church (Armando Rusindo Mission Foundation) in the USA. Within the community, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to helping those in need and providing life-saving resources such as medicines, wheelchairs, blood donations and other essential relief supplies to people in his local area. Rest in peace, Franco. A picture of Franco [here](#).

2026 Staff Gathering in Herrnhut



Every three years, staff from the church and administrative offices in Bad Boll, Herrnhut and Zeist (Netherlands) come together for a joint gathering. This includes staff from Herrnhuter Missionshilfe in Bad Boll. This year, the meeting took place in Herrnhut. After a joint barbecue to kick things off, a varied programme awaited the participants. In addition to a visit to the Vogtshof and a joint outdoor devotional, the

programme included fascinating insights into the production of Herrnhut stars and a tour of the historic sisters' houses in Kleinwelka. Alongside the visits and programme items, the focus was above all on personal exchange, meeting one another and shared experiences. These days once again highlighted just how valuable the connections between the various locations are and how important it remains to journey together within the European Moravian Church.

The advance of the Herrnhut missionaries into the interior of Labrador in 1811



The Inuit in Nain, Nunatsiavut (formerly Labrador), still remember the Moravian missionary [Benjamin Kohlmeister](#) (1756–1844), who joined the Moravian Church in Dresden; he can be described as the first missionary of the Dresden Moravian Church (biography [here](#), from page 255). He served – including a brief holiday at home – for 34 years in Labrador,

primarily at the stations of Hopedale, Nain and Okak. Together with his colleague Georg Kmoch (1770–1857), he spent months in the second half of 1811 exploring the Labrador coast and the interior under the guidance of the Inuit Uttakiyok, with the aim of finding suitable locations for new mission stations. A detailed and highly fascinating account of this expedition, *Journal of a voyage from Okak, on the coast of Labrador, to Ugava Bay*, was recently presented to the public by the Arctic historian Kenn Harper in the Nunatsiaq News. See [here](#) (Part I) and [here](#) (Part II). The Okak parish register [here](#).

Guests from Greenland discover the heritage of the Moravians



A network comprising towns in Oberlausitz, the Moravian Church and other partners, including international ones, aims to raise public awareness of the Moravian Church's heritage. Their first joint appearance is planned for 5–7 November 2026 at [Europe's leading trade fair for cultural heritage and monument conservation in Leipzig](#) Following this, staff from

the National Museum in Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, will visit key sites of the Moravian Church in Germany for the first time, travelling to Bautzen, Kleinwelka, Niesky, Herrnhut and Silesia to gain a first-hand impression of the heritage sites, as the participating partners explained in a joint statement. The Greenlandic National Museum preserves and researches 4,500 years of Arctic history, which also includes the Moravian missionary history in Greenland. As early as December 2025, several partners came together for a networking meeting in Herrnhut. More [here](#).

Special exhibition in Herrnhut: 'Go West! The Herrnhuters in the New World'



From 10 May to 25 October 2026, a new special exhibition will be on display at the Local History Museum in Herrnhut. The exhibition's curator, Konrad Fischer, has given it the title: Go West! The Herrnhuters in the New World – A Search for Traces in North America. The exhibition marks the 250th anniversary of US

independence. Added to this is the fact that the

German national football team will be based in Winston-Salem for the World Cup – a town founded by the Moravians in the mid-18th century. The exhibition explores the question: "What do the USA and its history have to do with us in Germany, and specifically with the Moravian Church?" It is certainly more than one might think. In fact, this small church, which was itself still in its formative stages in Europe at the time, left a significant mark on North America. This is particularly true of the period before the founding of the USA in 1776, which is why the exhibition focuses on this era. Alongside well-known names such as Zinzendorf, Spangenberg and Zeisberger, the exhibition also introduces lesser-known figures from the Moravian Church, who have equally fascinating life stories and legacies. These include, for example, the guitar maker Christian Friedrich Martin, the mycologist Lewis David de Schweinitz and the architect Benjamin Latrobe. Many will surely still remember Chingachgook, the Great Snake, the most popular GDR film about Native Americans. What is less well known is that the character of Chingachgook is based on a real person. In fact, this Mohican was called Tschop and was baptised by Moravian missionaries in 1742. His story is also told in the exhibition. More [here](#).

News in Brief

1. The Moravian Church in Peru will be sending greetings in May 2026 with a series of images set to Latin American music. The images are by Walter Calle Peralta. See [here](#). A family service from Chiclayo led by Walter Calle Peralta can be found [here](#).
2. The Moravian Fellowship in Delhi, in northern India, has shared a Facebook post offering a glimpse into their children's service on Pentecost Sunday, 24 May 2026. See [here](#).
3. On 20 May 2026, it was reported on Facebook that Genadendal in South Africa had been without electricity for ten days. Many trees had fallen, damaging overhead power lines across the countryside: the Mission Museum is also without power. The exhibition rooms are unlit. The telephones are also out of service. The museum would like to thank its visitors warmly for their patience and for their continued support during this difficult time. The dark

museum [here](#).

4. On Sunday, 31 May 2026, the Iglesia Moravos Ebenezer in the city of Santa Clara, Cuba, celebrated the last of the major church festivals in the first half of the church year: Trinity Sunday. See [here](#). As is almost always the case, young and old members of the congregation celebrated the service together.
5. An Oldie Goldie Sing Out was held at Trinity Moravian Church on Tortola (British Virgin Islands) on Sunday, 31 May 2026. In this type of service, the focus is on singing – or having someone lead the singing of – old, popular favourites (golden oldies, favourite songs). A video of the entire service can be found [here](#).
6. The Moravian Church Cruz de la Esperanza (Cross of Hope) in Chiclayo, Peru, has its own Facebook page dedicated to its missionary activities. Walter Calle Peralta, the church's pastor, posted a video on 5 June 2026 of the third and final evening of a Bible seminar under the heading It is God who judges. See [here](#).
7. There are four snapshots of Dimchui Rongmei (the first of which also features his wife, Dimjeng) from his ministry for the Moravian Church in Tanzania's South-West Province. Dimchui and Dimjeng are originally from the Moravian Church in northern India, but have recently been working in Tanzania. The first picture shows the couple congratulating Julius Thomas Sikana in Mbozi on 10 May 2026 on his ordination as a bishop of the Moravian Church. The second picture shows Dimchui with his Tanzanian colleagues. The third and fourth pictures show him at a children's evangelism event on the streets of Mbeya.
8. The Provincial Board of the British Province has decided that, following careful consideration, the Church's headquarters—including the Provincial Archives—will move from Muswell Hill, London, to the traditional parish of Fulneck in Pudsey, West Yorkshire. The process will begin as early as summer 2026.

Impressum

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