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Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Ausgabe 2026-15 vom 13. August 2026

August 21 is always an important day



On August 21, 1732, the first two missionaries, Leonhard Dober and David Nitschmann, were sent out from Herrnhut to bring the Gospel to the enslaved plantation workers on the Caribbean island of St. Thomas. This marked the beginning of the Moravian Church's mission.

This day is commemorated in many provinces. It is a day of often grateful remembrance of what came with the missionaries: schools, healthcare,

kindergartens, women's groups, and much more. It was only through these people and this movement that the worldwide Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) grew from its humble beginnings. So, is it a day of great joy for everyone?

Alongside the positive aspects of the mission, it also becomes clear that European culture and ethics were introduced to foreign peoples alongside the Christian mission. These often marginalized or destroyed indigenous cultural forms or ethical systems. Furthermore, many missionaries did not question the system of slavery until very late, and thus failed to fully recognize the suffering of enslaved people. Thus, August 21 is certainly a day of shared joy, but it also presents the task of critically examining the shared history between Europeans and Indigenous peoples and acknowledging the suffering that resulted.

Entrepreneurship Study Day at the "Moravian Institute" in Rajpur

Innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship were the main themes of a one-day seminar held on July 13, 2026, at the historic Moravian Institute in Rajpur near Dehradun, northern India. The event was conceived as a School of Entrepreneurship, as most of the students in



attendance are pursuing careers in entrepreneurship. The event was organized by Udhyam, the Hindi word for effort or hard work. Participants included young people from the “PYDS” (Purkal Youth Development Society) and from the all-girls Him Jyoti School in Dehradun. Each school was represented by several teams that competed against one another in various

contests. Among the teams from Rajpur, GLAM—an innovative business idea to promote traditional cuisine in Garhwal, Ladakh, Assam, and Manipur—took first place. Sole Spring, the business idea for a platform to support older adults, won second prize. The event was a wonderful celebration of collaboration. Each presentation demonstrated thoughtful planning, creativity, and a passion for innovation. 21 photos [here](#).

Coming soon: 2027 Mission Organizations Calendar



In early September 2026, the traditional trilingual calendar produced by the various mission organizations affiliated with the Evangelical Mission Worldwide (EMW), headquartered in Hamburg, will be available at many locations and from the publisher—the *Deutsche Evangelische Missionshilfe*. The 13 images for 2027 are titled The Power of the Elements. Take a look at four selected images

[here](#). The images in this calendar show how people around the world live and work with the elements. Whether cooking, farming, playing, or going about their daily lives—everywhere, people make use of nature’s gifts and, at the same time, depend on them. But the images also speak to the impressive beauty and strength of creation: from thundering waterfalls, arid deserts, dormant volcanoes, and the eternal ice. They serve as a reminder that a good life is only possible in harmony with the forces of nature. The elements are both a gift and a responsibility.

Featured in Detail: Jacques Bya’unda from Eastern Congo

In its short 2026 summer series, the Brødremenighedens Danske Mission (BDM)—the Danish sister organization of Herrnhuter



Missionshilfe—introduces Jacques Bya’unda, chairman of the Moravian Church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He shares that, in the midst of a country marked by unrest and conflict, he finds his strength in prayer. Prayer, he says, cools his heated mind, so to speak. Prayer frees him from worries. Without spiritual dialogue with God, he says, he could do

nothing—neither in his personal life nor in his leadership responsibilities. Amid the recurring chaos between the government army and rebel groups, he must offer comfort and leadership every day. That is why he says: “Before work begins, I ask God for wisdom, energy, and protection. When challenges threaten to overwhelm me, prayer helps me to remain patient and to act wisely and attentively, taking all circumstances into account.” Read the full blog post [here](#).

New, much-photographed exhibit at the Mission Museum in Genadendal



The Moravian Church’s Mission Museum in Genadendal now has a new centerpiece, according to a Facebook post. It is one of the most photographed items in the museum: a 100-year-old, masterfully crafted Art Deco-style seating set. These pieces of furniture, with their curved wooden armrests and timeless design, once belonged to Christopherus and Hendriette Wyngaard, a couple of watchmakers who lived

in Genadendal and were highly regarded throughout the wider area surrounding the mission settlement. Their descendants donated this furniture to the museum—along with many historical musical instruments, as the pieces now on display once stood in the Wyngaards’ music room. The museum is delighted not only to be able to showcase this extraordinary South African craftsmanship but also to honor the memory of a family whose history is part of Genadendal’s heritage. More [here](#).

A Parish in Burundi Celebrates the Silver Wedding Anniversary of a Pastoral Couple

At the Moravian Church in Gitobe, Burundi, Pastor Joel Nyabenda and his wife celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. The couple had



decided to combine the celebration with a public worship service in the town square, which provided a magnificent setting for the festivities. The couple was given a joyful send-off as they made their way from their home to the town square. Also present were the bishop of the Moravian Church in Burundi, Pascal Benimana, as well as the chair of the Provincial Board (PB),

Pastor Edward Augusto Nsengiyumva, and the church's general secretary, Pastor Manassé Irutingabo. In heartfelt remarks, Bishop Pascal Benimana encouraged the couple to remain faithful to one another and to set a good example for others. May God have been gracious to them throughout their 25-year marriage. Family members shared testimonies about milestones in the couple's life. The couple presented gifts to those who had been close to them over the past 25 years. Photos [here](#).

News in Brief

1. Even "half-round" anniversaries can serve to breathe new life into congregational life. That was the thinking at the Bethabara Moravian Church in Manchester, Jamaica, which kicked off the 185th anniversary of the congregation's founding on July 26, 2026, with a festive worship service. See [here](#).
2. Although *World Helth Day 2026* was officially observed on April 7, 2026, staff members at the Medical Mission's health clinic in Suriname gathered on July 29, 2026, in the rainforest settlement of Brokopoondo for a day dedicated to their own fitness. Photos [here](#).
3. Two of the schools affiliated with the Stichting Onderweijns (School Foundation of the Moravian Church in Suriname) recently completed a renovation project in the presence of guests: the Salimin School and the H. M. Bielke School in Commeweijne. A 150-second video is available [here](#). The latter school also celebrated the 45th anniversary of its founding.
4. From July 9 to 13, 2026, the Provincial Synod of the British Province was held at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Rev. Mikie Roberts, a pastor from the Eastern West Indies Province and program officer for spiritual life at the World Council of Churches (WCC), greeted the synod members on behalf of his organization and provided a spiritual reflection for the synod. More [here](#).
5. School health screenings, which have fallen out of favor in Germany, are a great help to people in Suriname. Twice a year, so-called health assistants visit

- the schools of the Moravian Church in this tropical landlocked country. Photos from a visit to an unnamed school can be found [here](#). The visits include: height and weight measurements, skin examinations, vision tests, ear examinations, dental checkups and advice on dental care, hemoglobin testing, deworming, assessment of personal hygiene, preventive health care, and general health education.
6. Pastor Walter Calle Peralta and Tania Sanchez from Peru posted some photos set to music on August 4, 2026, depicting parish life during the first weekend of August 2026. See [here](#) and [here](#). Tania Sanchez works full-time as the financial officer for the Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba, the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Cuba.
 7. On August 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., under the patronage of Bishop Ezra Parris, a Theatrical Production titled Moravians Got Talents will take place in an event hall in Bridgetown—organized by the Barbados Conference of the Unity Province of the Eastern West Indies. See [here](#). Admission: 75 Barbados dollars. The currency in Barbados is pegged to the U.S. dollar (2 BBD = 1 USD). In a short video, the Moravian Church in Barbados highlights its 260th anniversary celebration and the planned activities. See [here](#).
 8. Joyce Ghambi and William Mashimbi from our partner congregation in Ibungu, in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania, arrived safely in Herrnhag in early August 2026. Brothers and sisters from the Rhine-Main Moravian Church will enjoy a variety of fellowship activities with them and also go on trips together. Photos [here](#).
 9. In turn, Bettina Nasgowitz, the project manager for Herrnhuter Missionshilfe, recently spent an extended period of time in Tanzania and Zanzibar to visit congregations and partner organizations and to get a general sense of the projects on the ground. Photos [here](#).

Impressum

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