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Herrnhuter Mission *aktuell*

Nachrichten der Herrnhuter Missionshilfe

Ausgabe 2026-21 vom 12. November 2026

Star Mountain should be protected in a variety of ways



Following the illegal intrusion by Jewish settlers onto the grounds of the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center (SMRC), there has been a wave of international solidarity. For many people and churches, Christian ministry in the Holy Land is a matter of great concern. That is why the attack on the Christian facility in Star Mountain has caused such deep concern. The SMRC management team is working around the clock to secure the facility's grounds from the rear. This includes reinforcing the wall and fence: cost estimates are being obtained, and contractors are being sought to carry out the work. We are very grateful that many individuals and churches are providing financial support for this effort. For us, this is a clear sign of compassion and solidarity. A heartfelt thank you to all our supporters around the world!

Jamaica One Year After Hurricane "Melissa"



One year after Hurricane Melissa struck the main island of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands with full force on October 28, 2025, the local Moravian Church continues to grapple with the aftermath of this disaster. The North American Board of World Mission, which coordinates foreign aid as agreed, has already transferred more than $225,000 to the Unity Province Jamaica for four construction projects (the Salem parsonage, the Petersville church, the New Fulneck parsonage, and Camp Hope) as well as for general relief needs. A new report from the Provincial Board of Jamaica indicates significant progress. Ten church properties have already been restored, and work is underway on four more.

However, reconstruction or repair work has not yet begun on many properties. After all, 23 of the 64 congregations in Jamaica were located within the core disaster zone. Further aid is urgently needed. More here.

How the Moravian Church in America Is Coming to Terms with Its History of Slavery



The Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in America recently posted on Facebook about how the Moravian Church in Winston-Salem is coming to terms with its history of slavery. Time and again, people say that while the Moravian Church did own slaves to work on its plantations, it treated them better than other slave owners. That is not entirely true. The relatively new *Salem Walk* through the historic Salem congregation tells the true story, allowing tourists to immerse themselves in the era of slavery. At one stop along the slave trail, a slave of the Moravian Church named Abraham—who needed medical attention for his wounds—recounts: "I was beaten very badly. The brothers are so unpredictable. Sometimes they laugh with us Black people, then they beat us like dogs." The Moravian Church in the southern United States also supported the *Jim-Crow-Gesetze* (1877–1960), which enforced strict racial segregation. More here. A video about the Salem Walk here.

Awareness Days to Prevent Teen Pregnancy in Suriname



In Suriname, the fertility rate among adolescents aged 15 to 19 is approximately 54 births per 1,000 girls, though it is even higher in some rural communities among indigenous girls and Maroon girls. This was one of the reasons for a recent outreach visit to Powakka and Brownsweg, both located in the interior of Suriname. The *United Nations Fund for Population Activities* together with the NGO *Global Affairs Canada*, the "Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Project," and Medische Zending, visited various health facilities to speak with staff and other interested parties about what works and what doesn't: e.g., contraception, sex education, support for pregnant adolescents, support for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and information on sexual and reproductive

health for young people. A girl's place of birth should never determine what her future looks like. Some photos here.

Three school gardens in Suriname have been newly established or revitalized



Despite the ongoing drought, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries of the Republic of Suriname has ensured that three school gardens belonging to the Stichting Onderwijs (School Foundation) in Suriname could be newly established or reopened (O.-S.-Afaka School; John-Monkou School; E.-Pacelli School). The opening ceremony took place in the presence of prominent government officials. Establishing and maintaining three school gardens during the ongoing drought poses a major challenge. Nevertheless, the aforementioned ministry is committed to introducing students to agriculture and the importance of food production in a hands-on and educational manner. The main goal of the school garden projects is to raise students' awareness of the importance of food self-sufficiency. In addition, school gardens can generate additional income. 25 photos here.

There are traces of the Moravian Mission in Torngat Mountains National Park



The Government of Canada operates a website called Nature and Science. This website provides detailed, recently updated information about Torngat Mountains National Park in northern Labrador, which, for conservation reasons, can be visited annually only by a limited number of researchers and tourists. The description of the national park—which is managed by an Inuit-dominated council—includes a brief reference to the Moravian mission work: "Among the remnants of the recent history of the Torngat Mountains—the 'Ghost Mountains'—are the ruins of Moravian Church mission stations (Hebron, Zoar, Okak, Ramah, and Killinek), Hudson's Bay Company trading posts, a German radio-controlled weather station from World War II on the Hutton Peninsula—erected there in 1943 by the crew of a German submarine—as well as two stations of an early-warning radar system from the Cold War era." See here and also here. Today,

the only Moravian Church congregations remaining in Labrador are in Hopedale, Nain, Makkovik, and Happy Valley/Goose Bay.

Church Service Strike in Kisesa—Women Want to Build Their Own Church



It is especially the women of the Kisesa congregation (Tanzania, Mwanza Region) who want their own church. The Danish missionary Mads Jakobsen learned this during a recent visit to the area. The congregation is led by Pastor Subira Mbogo. Seven women and 13 children were present at a worship service held in a rented party hall. The men were completely absent. When the missionary asked why, the women replied: “The men don’t feel like coming to church. First, they need all their available time to earn money, so they work even on Sundays. Second, for political reasons, they don’t want to enter a building that belongs to the ruling party, the CCM (Party of the Revolution). They want nothing to do with this party. The corrupt CCM has won every election since 1961.” So that at least the second argument will no longer apply in the future and the women can end their worship strike, they are beginning to plan their own church. They have already purchased a plot of land. Now they are raising money for the construction. More here.

Breast Cancer Awareness Day Brings All of Genadendal Out onto the Streets



On Friday, October 23, 2026, the Moravian Mission Museum, the congregation library, the local polyclinic, the local childcare center, and the Genadendal E-Learning Center joined forces in the Genadendal congregation to support a so-called Breast Cancer Awareness Walk. The event was more than just a pleasant walk; rather, it offered an opportunity to discuss an important issue, reflect on the use of preventive care services, and express and organize support for those affected by breast cancer. Initiatives like these remind people of the power of strong communities. When local organizations join forces, it usually creates an opportunity to bring people together, educate them, and improve their current living situation to some extent. Photos from the Breast Cancer

Awareness Day can be found here.

Greenland Takes Center Stage at the 2026 Denkmal Trade Fair in Leipzig



At the *denkmal - Europäische Leitmesse für Denkmalpflege, Restaurierung und Altbausanierung*, held November 5–7, 2026, in Leipzig, Inge Bisgaard from the Greenland National Museum in Nuuk (Neu Herrnhut) also spoke about the traces of the Moravian Church in Greenland. Greenland's Heritage, Herrnhut's Legacy was one of her topics. It has been 293 years since Moravian missionaries first arrived in Greenland. Inge Bisgaard said, "Today, 160 buildings in our country are listed as historic landmarks. Twenty of these are part of the Moravian Church's heritage. They are spread across 14 locations on the island, particularly along the west coast." During her presentation at the fair, Inge Bisgaard emphasized that Greenlanders have only been living in proper houses for 350 years. "Greenlanders have a knack for finding creative solutions when it comes to building houses," she said. Learn more about the connection between Greenland and the Moravian Church here. After the fair, Inge Bisgaard traveled to Herrnhut to visit the Herrnhut congregation.

News in Brief

1. Bethlehem Moravian College in Malvern, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, hosted a Club Fair on October 30, 2026, which was deemed a great success. The various college clubs and student groups provided a glimpse into their activities at this fair. See here.

2. The Holy Cross Moravian Church in Santa Cruz, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, held a kind of youth and family worship service, a Covenant Day Service Afternoon Session, on October 18, 2026. A video of this event can be found here.

3. In a narrated video, four young Danish women, Lea, Tabita, Emma, and Victoria, offer a lively and cheerful glimpse into their daily lives as volunteers at Peter's House, a children's and youth facility run by the Moravian Church in Sumbawanga, Tanzania (Rukwa Province). The video also features their male and female charges, including some orphans. See here.

4. On Sunday, October 25, 2026, the Rhein-Main Congregation once again

demonstrated that partnership services can be celebrated even across great distances. Following prior arrangements regarding texts, hymns, liturgies, and prayers as well as written contributions prepared in advance and exchanged between the congregations authentic fellowship with the Ibungu Congregation in the southern highlands of Tanzania was made possible. The sermon was based on 1 Corinthians 3:11: “No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Christ.”

5. Prof. Dr. Hans Rollmann, a member of the Moravian Church from St. John’s, Newfoundland, is to receive the David Schattschneider Prize. The prize honors his life’s work in researching the Moravian Church in Labrador. It will be presented to the scholar during the Moravian History Conference in Bethlehem, PA, from November 12–14, 2026. Press release here.
6. Some time ago, the Russian newspaper Kommersant published a very positive report on the Moravian Church. A lengthy article focusing on the 1765 founding of the Sarepta settlement in the Kalmyk Steppe on the Volga (today’s Volgograd), but which also recounted the entire history of the Moravian Church from its beginnings, was titled: “Everyone Lives Like a Lord, Big or Small—How a Communist Society Emerged in Russia Even Before the Birth of Karl Marx.” Download the illustrated article here.

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