

O N W A R D

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Could This BEE Your Call to Mission?

For the last few years my students at Moravian Theological Seminary and I have been reading an important new book by Philip Jenkins entitled *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2002). Jenkins argues that at the beginning of the third millennium, the Christian world has been turned upside down. The majority of Christian believers no longer live in Europe and North America but rather in the rapidly growing areas of Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The 175,000 new Christians are baptized every day, most of them in the southern hemisphere. This shift in the center of gravity is bringing about dramatic changes in Christian theology, mission, life and worship. It is also creating a demand for Christian edu-

cation and for many more Christian leaders. How will these new believers learn the content of the faith? Who will be the pastors and teachers, the elders and counselors and evangelists for the rising church in the Global South?

Biblical Education by Extension (BEE) may provide one answer. Traditional training courses in congregations, denominations, and theological seminaries cannot meet the growing need, at least in the shorter. BEE was developed during the 1970s as a way to teach Christianity in the closed countries on the other side of the Iron Curtain. It is based on a carefully prepared curricu-

lum, a course in basic Christianity, which can be translated into various languages. In the 21st century there is less need for such a ministry in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, but there still are places, many of them in the Global South, where access to the Gospel is restricted. BEE World, a federation of groups which use the BEE curriculum, is now at work in a variety of countries throughout Central and East Asia as well as other countries in the Near East and on the African continent. Typically, the facilitator of a BEE course (the title "teacher" is usually not used, because the process is more of a shared



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Costa Rica School of Music and Worship Update



On Friday, January 19th, Sam Gray met with pastors from two Ecumenical Associations in Limón, Costa Rica, to lay out the vision for the School of Music and Worship. The response was exciting!

On Tuesday, February 13th, a second meeting was called by brother Leo Pixley (Moravian PEC President in Costa Rica). Pastors from both Ecumenical Associations (Evangelical and Historic) attended. They are asking churches in Limón to formalize their commitment to the school and to give an idea of how many students each denomination might send. As in Kathmandu, Nepal, the Moravian Church would be part of the ecumenical team that administers the school. The BWM, drawing on many resources from the Moravian Music Foundation and Board of Christian Education (Youth and College Ministries), and utilizing the commitment of many Moravian "Youth in Mission," is pledging its full support of this new and exciting ministry.

The next meeting of the planning group will be held on March 14th at 3:00 p.m. in the Anglican Church of Limón. Please pray that God would guide everyone involved in this effort. As Brother Leo said in his report of the meeting, "I think we have something going on here, Sam!"

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Printing Correction . . . Sorry for the confusion in February's Pray Every Day. All 28 days were present and accounted for as the Chiddies can attest to.