



## A Little Closer To The Fulfillment Of “Missio Dei” *continued from Page 3*

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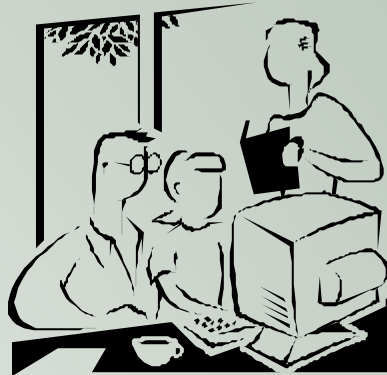
that Methodists do missions with other Methodists, Moravians with other Moravians, Baptists with other Baptists, Lutherans with other Lutherans, and so on? Is it because it's easier this way? Perhaps. But I think God is calling us to live out his vision for his family by going above and beyond what's easy. I believe he is calling us to serve him and live out his mission alongside those who may not agree with all our beliefs, those who may not hold the same reverence for what we hold dear. Can you imagine what might get accomplished for his kingdom if his children were to work together – Protestants and Catholics, liberals and conservatives, fundamentalists and mainline churches, Lutherans and Moravians – all working together, on the same side, to further the

vision of Missio Dei. Though it may require more planning, adjustments in the way we think or do things, or some extra emotional effort, I believe this is what God is calling us to.

Finally, it's important to keep in mind that seeking ecumenism, like going through life, is more about the journey than it is about the final goal. Will all Christians, worldwide, ever be able to take communion together – as one body, at the same time, in the same place? Perhaps, but if it does happen, I think that's a long way off. Though that may be the goal many have in mind when talking about

ecumenism, I think that it's the journey that will teach us, change us, and grow us into more perfect images of Christ on this earth. My hope is that our denomination will

look outside of itself to join others in the family of God, in daily life as well as in local and global missions, thus living out ecumenism and getting a little closer to the fulfillment of “Missio Dei.”



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encounter with the Christian faith than a formal classroom session) will visit the host country for about a week. During that time he or she will meet with a group of individuals who have been gathered by the local Christian community, often a house church. Together, facilitator and learners work through the course materials. The first course is usually a study of Romans and Galatians. Later courses in the sequence include How to Study the Bible, Christian Discipleship, Christian Life and Family, and A Survey of Christian Doctrine, in addition to intensive study of other books of the Bible. At present, the BEE curriculum is made up of 27 courses ([www.beeworld.org](http://www.beeworld.org)). The hope and expectation is that those who have completed the courses will turn around and facilitate the

program for others. In the future, BEE courses will also be available online ([www.internetseminary.org](http://www.internetseminary.org)).

From February Will Sibert and Sam Gray of the Board of World Mission and I attended the BEE World Family Conference held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Dr. Jody Dillow, president of BEE World led a study of Philippians 3, followed by reports from missionaries and local Christian leaders who are using the BEE program in various parts of the world. We met some deeply committed Christians who are involved in the expansion of God's Realm in our world, we forged new friendships and learned some things about the work of the Gospel in today's world. Our purpose in attending this ecumeni-

cal mission conference was to explore ways and means that Moravians might be a part of BEE World. It is possible that the BEE method can be adapted to meet the needs for theological education and leadership development in the provinces of the Moravian Unity. It is also possible that in the near future Moravian laity, seminarians, and clergy might serve as facilitators of BEE courses in restricted access settings.

Could this “BEE” a part of your own Christian calling? If it might BEE, please contact the Board of World Mission.

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