

O N W A R D

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Threshers For Ladakh

The town of Leh, India (where the Moravian Church has had a powerful presence for more than 150 years) is in the region known as Ladakh (a Tibetan word meaning “land of the passes”). Ladakh is at the western end of the Tibetan Plateau in the northernmost part of India. It is about half the size of South Carolina with an average altitude of 12,000 to 13,000 feet. Many remote villages, however, are at altitudes of 14,000 feet or higher with connecting passes at 16,000 to 18,000 feet!

Scientists from North Carolina State University (including some members of Christ The King Moravian Church in Durham, North Carolina) have joined with Brother David Livingston (an MK – Missionary’s Kid – who grew up with a real heart for mission as well as a burden for the people of Ladakh) to organize the Ladakh Development Foundation in order to reach out to the people of this ruggedly and breathtakingly beautiful part of God’s creation. The LDF is dedicated to assisting the people of Ladakh and surrounding areas in all aspects of rural development with the goal of empowering the people of Ladakh to improve their lives and communities.

Barley is the major crop in Ladakh, but in this region – and with the limited resources available – threshing the grain can be very problematic. The Thresher Project (of the Ladakh Development Foundation) provides small gasoline /

kerosene powered wheat and barley threshers to villages in Ladakh that, because of their remoteness, have



received little or no humanitarian assistance. A crop that would take 10 to 14 days to thresh using animals takes from 2 to 3 days using the thresher. After harvest, many farmers travel to other parts of

Ladakh for manual labor and the time they save using the thresher enables them to leave earlier.

The thresher also provides an alternative to villagers who do not have animals and have to rent them. Even those with animals cannot always rely on them since they get sick and sometimes die. Less grain is lost using the thresher because animal threshing does not always completely thresh the heads and some of the grain is trampled into the ground.

The head Lama of one village told the Ladakh Development folks that he likes the thresher because it
Continued on Page 4

A Five Minute Prayer Meeting

The Unity Board of the Worldwide Moravian Church met in Barbados, Eastern West Indies, May 17-25. What an amazing gathering – Moravian brothers and sisters from 17 of the 19 provinces of the Unity! Each day, the sessions began with a time of devotions (led by local pastors in Barbados), followed by another hour of Bible Study, reflection and visioning. The theme of the studies was “Discerning God’s Mission Through Our Unity,” but the group realized that it could also be “Discerning Our Unity Through God’s Mission.” Our mission flows from our unity, but our unity is also found in our mutual mission!

One morning at about 5:55 a.m.,

five of the Unity Board members were walking along the white sands of Rockley Beach beside the beautiful Caribbean Sea. One of the five said to the others, “before we walk together, we should pray together.” So they did. It was a five minute prayer meeting... with prayers in five languages!



But what a beautiful picture of our Moravian Unity: brothers and sisters beginning the day together, praying together before they walk together, in different styles and different languages, yet, like the disciples on the day of Pentecost, all together in one place!