

O N W A R D

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550th Anniversary Celebration—Barbados

Two Southern Province Moravians had the privilege of taking part in anniversary celebrations in other parts of the Worldwide Unity. Thomas Baucom tells of his experience in Barbados, and Kevin Frack shares some of the joys of being in the Czech Republic, here's where it all began:

Spring Break has traditionally been a time for college students to book plane tickets to some tropical "paradise" in hopes of forgetting about studying for some length of time. In true collegiate fashion, I found myself on a flight to Barbados before my Spring Break officially started. Upon landing, I immediately felt the cold, dry air of the airplane disappear and transform into the warm yet breezy climate I had anticipated. I met up with Sam Gray and Will Sibert in the airport and we stepped through the threshold into a country none of us had ever experienced first hand. We were immediately met by Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford and began our drive to Mt. Tabor Moravian Church, which would serve as our home for the week.

After a good night's rest assisted by a cool, tropical breeze and a breakfast of fresh fruit, bread and guava jam, we began preparations for that night's 550th Anniversary celebration at Calvary Moravian Church. The service was simply magnificent. The church was completely full of Moravians, evangelical groups, government officials and a television crew that was filming the ceremony for national television and radio. I was amazed that a church service would garner a national media audi-

ence and a speech from the office of the Prime Minister. While the occasion was organized around the anniversary, I was overjoyed to hear that the future missions of the Moravian Church were central to the thoughts and prayers of those in attendance.

550th

The following day Sam and Will conducted a workshop at Sharon Moravian Church, the oldest Moravian congregation on the island. It was obvious that the Moravians in Barbados wanted to focus their energies on missions, as their theme for this year

is "People On a Mission For God." The workshop attendees were very excited to gather together and discuss how they could, as Christians, reach out to the community. As we left Sharon that Saturday night, I found myself spiritually rejuvenated and anxious for worship the next morning.

I was not prepared for the events of Sunday in Barbados. I followed Sam to worship at the two congregations pastored by Rev. Athill-Horsford. The congregations of Penuel Moravian and Mt. Tabor Moravian sang, prayed and took communion together as I knew many other Moravians were doing at that same moment. I was consciously aware of my place not only as a member of the worldwide Unity but also as a member

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God's Celebration in the Czech Republic

I was invited by the church in the Czech Republic to the 550th Anniversary celebrations. Even though 95% of the Czech Republic are not Christian, there is an openness to the movement of the Unity of the Brethren because it was so wrapped up in people like John Hus.

The Czech people remember John Hus as a national leader who was willing to stand in the face of foreign oppression and paid the price for it. So taking advantage of the openness of the Czech people, the Czech Moravians decided to unveil an exhibition they are sending out nationwide to remind them in non-religious terms about what happened in their life that

has affected people around the world.

The testimony I'd like to share is what happened on the evening of March 1 in the city of Liberec. It was a nationally televised event. The President of the Czech Senate and the Governor of the state, the head of the Ministry of Finance, the Czech Idol (like American Idol), members of the Czech Moravian Board, Moravian music groups and I were the program.

The moderator for the evening was a national television host. He was a friend of one of the leaders of the provincial board. In the

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