

A Message From Our President

As you all know, the Moravian Church began in 1457 in Bohemia. After periods when the ministry flourished and instances when it almost died out under severe persecution, a small group under the leadership of Count Zinzendorf came together in what we now know as the “Renewed Moravian Church”. In 1732, 275 years after the founding of the *Unitas Fratrum*, God inspired them with one of history’s most remarkable missionary movements, the “Great Missionary Decade” of the Moravian Church

of 1732 to 1741.

This year 2007, another 275 years have passed since the movement began with the sending of two missionaries to St. Thomas.

The power of the Gospel and the depth of the world’s needs are as great now as they were in 1457 and 1732. The call of our Lord is unmistakable. Missions need not wait for an anniversary year, but as we plan and celebrate our 550 years as a church,



Synod resolution mandates missions as our primary theme.

The Moravian Church accepts the challenge and command of the Lord, “Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and the Son and the

Holy Ghost”. So, as we celebrate 550 let’s make

“Mission Outreach” our primary focus.

Evon Crook, s President, Mission Society Board of Directors

Mission Questions to Congregations—Temperature Gauge

The Mission 550 Leadership Team has sent the following questionnaire to all Southern Province congregations as a way of determining the degree of mission outreach that is taking place within the Province. The questions are a good way of getting to where “the rubber meets the road!” The Board of World Mission has added 5 questions to the list:

- ▲ Does your congregation participate in any external mission activity? If so, is it through financial contribution (Sunnyside Ministry, Samaritan’s Purse, etc.) or through volunteer action?
- ▲ List financial recipients of external missions.
- ▲ List areas of volunteer action. What is the total amount from your church budget that is given to external missions?
- ▲ What would your church like to do if you had additional financial or human resources?
- ▲ Estimate amounts from congregational entities (Women’s Fel-

lowship, Circles, Brothers’ Fellowship) that are given to external missions.

- ▲ Is your congregation participating in the Board of World Missions Second Mile Projects? If so, which ones?
- ▲ How does your congregation understand its part in God’s mission to the world?
- ▲ How would your congregation define “missions?”

- ▲ What are some things you are doing as a congregation to fulfill God’s mission?
- ▲ What special gifts has God given your congregation to fulfill His mission?
- ▲ What obstacles face your congregation which hinder the fulfillment of God’s mission? How “on-fire” is your congregation for Missions? How can we serve the Moravian Missions Movement and God’s heart?

Neil and Anita Moree, Bible translation

Neil and Anita are missionaries preparing for service with Wycliffe Bible Translators, and supported in part by the BWM, the Southern Province Mission Society and some Moravian congregations. They send the following specific prayer requests:

- Guidance with the next few months of travel arrangements
- That Churches would be receptive to hearing us

That individuals and church leaders would catch the vision and significance of Bible Translation

- That we would have increasing abilities in French study
- Fruitfulness from a Road Trip that we are planning
- Patience on our part for God’s timing