

What It Means To Be A Moravian Young Adult

As a baby, I was baptized by a Moravian pastor in a Moravian Chapel. As a child, growing up in the Moravian church meant partaking in all of the Moravian traditions. From serving sugar bread at candle tea to singing morning star on Christmas Eve, to lighting the Advent wreath,

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these memories are vivid in my mind. Whether my friends thought I looked strange in the "pilgrim" dress or my mother changed the ribbon colors embellishing my dress, I never

questioned the traditions of my church.

As an adolescent, I sometimes felt confused when singing turn-of-the-century hymns and reciting the Nicene Creed. Now, as a young adult of the Moravian church, being a Moravian goes beyond the baptism, the ancient hymns, and the sometimes seemingly out-dated traditions I have always embraced. Being a Moravian means understanding God's call to "serve Him on Earth until he comes." I am aware that I am "being called in faith to serve humanity." These quotes taken from the Ground of the Unity, the doctrinal statement of the Moravian Church, influence my thoughts and actions. To me, being a young adult of the Moravian church means striving to understand

and fulfill this calling. As a Moravian young adult, I am involved in youth group, youth choir, regional youth council, and youth representation on the mission society. While these groups influence my daily life, my identity as a young adult of the Moravian church motivates me to go beyond these groups. I am called to look outward, beyond myself, my family, and my friends in the Moravian church, to my school, my larger community, and to the world. Having a church family who supports my answer to this call is a blessing that will lead me beyond being a Moravian young adult and will motivate me throughout my life as a Moravian.

Hannah Spring, Kernersville Moravian

From the Editor's Desk . . .

When I began the editorship of Onward in December, I knew I would need to step up my prayer life, as my gifts alone were not sufficient to step into the shoes of the Rev. John Geisler. He had edited the Onward for almost 9 years when he began writing the Pray Every Day as well. We are all immensely grateful for the work John has faithfully done. Getting all the material together in print form and to the printer on time so as not to disappoint a very zealous Mailing Committee headed by the Rev. Gene Chiddy is no small task. It is with great joy the Mission Society Board of Directors, Bishop Sam, and the new Onward staff say THANK

YOU to John for his years of hard work and the great reading we all enjoyed and waited for each month.

As the Onward changes hands, several other changes have taken place. The publication will now include a broader range of mission information and news; hence, you will notice the Young Adult column above as one of the regular additions. They are a powerful and prayerful force that want to "GO", and need to be heard, encouraged, and prayed for.

Be looking as well for articles to inspire your Mission Committee, your Sunday School, your

children, and parents of children as well.

Moravians from all provinces are encouraged to send their mission news for publication in the Onward. The deadline for the following month's submission is the *20th of the month*. Please submit your news to: (mail) 2515 LakeSpring Ct., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106, or (email)

moravianonward@yahoo.com

It is also a joy to welcome Sister Helen Gullede to the Onward team as coordinator/editor of Pray Every Day and the Prayer Focus. Pray Every Day has

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