



# ONWARD

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## TRAIL OF TEARS – 2004 by Lola Null

Forty of us trekked off on our Trail of Tears tour led by Br. John Giesler on September 9, 2004 from Winston-Salem. We boarded the bus for an eleven day trip of Moravian missionary work among the Cherokee Indians, through eight states going 2763 miles to Oklahoma and back. Many of us read books such as *Faith and Tears – The Moravian Mission Among the Cherokees* by Daniel Crews, *History of the Moravian Missions Among Southern Tribes in the United States* by Edmund Schwarze, *Trail of Tears, the Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Indians* by John Ehle. Many museums about the Cherokee Indians were seen. At the Oconaluftee Indian Village in Cherokee, NC, a replica of an authentic Cherokee village town of 1750, we observed arts as weaving of belts and beads, hickory bark baskets, carving of spears, bows and arrows, masks, rattles, boats and molding pottery. It was interesting to learn that the Indians had lived in log homes, not in tepees. There were logs hollowed out for water. The Cherokee were a matrilineal society (the man when married went to live with the woman's clan) until the European influence affected the Cherokees during the 1700-1800's. At the capitol of the Cherokees New Echota State Park museum we saw Moravian marterials. We next went to Springplace Mission and God's Acre, the burial place of Moravian missionaries such as Sr. Anna Rosina Kliet Gambold and Christian Indians. We learned that the Cherokee language has no profane words. Also there is no word for good by – just "we shall see each other again" (in this or next life). Thanks to the efforts of Sequoyah, the Cherokee were inabled to read and write. We saw a printing press used to print the newspaper in Cherokee and English.

The saddest part of the tour was seeing how the Cherokee Indians were treated by many of the American people and government. The US government soldiers made them leave their homes farms and hunting grounds in the Carolinas, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee and went by foot or boat to Oklahoma. Around 4,000 of them died on the way due to the sever winter of 1838-1839. The Moravian Cherokees, however, did not lose

any one on the trip, due to the Moravian tradition of community and caring for one another.

The highlight of the tour was at Oaks Indian Center, site of the former Moravian Mission church and school. We went to nearby God's Acre and saw many missionary graves. We observed a Cherokee dance – they use a single drum tone, service singing in Cherokee. We enjoyed a cookout meal of fried hog, baked beans, fried bread and fried potatoes among other treats.

We worshiped the first Sunday at the Nashville Cowboy Church and the second Sunday at Morning Star Moravian Church in Asheville. We had lunch and enjoyed fellowship with the latter community of Christians. We enjoyed eating Goo-goo candy and the biggest biscuits I've ever seen, We attended a live radio/TV show at the Grand Old Opry, Branson, and a pow-wow dance. We exchanged jokes, watched videos on Moravian and Cherokee history, and found out most carpets are dyed in NW Georgia. We visited the Will Rogers Museum (he was a Cherokee) and Laura Ingalls Wilder's *The Little House on the Prairie* Museum

Br. Chris Weber stated that he *was grateful that he could make the trip, walk to the springs, enjoy friendship shared, and while we can not undo the Trail of Tears sadness and injustice, we can each can share love with everyone we meet regardless of race, wealth or need. We benefit from it.* Louise Flynt, a non-Moravian, stated *I enjoyed the fellowship and love and learned a lot of what Moravians did for the Indians.* This was a trip that was truly memorable to all of us.

## THE EXOTIC PLANT – A History of the Moravian Church in Great Britain 1742-2000

By Geoffrey and Margaret Stead Epworth Press, 2003.

With the recent publication of this book, much information about the identity and history of our church is made available to the wider Christian and academic community for the first time. The first three sections of the book tell the story of British Moravianism from the date of its formal inauguration up to the present day. The fourth and final part explores in considerable detail some of the aspects of worship, belief and traditional practice which can be seen as distinctively Moravian and which are likely to be unfamiliar to most general readers.

The authors have clearly made very considerable use of the primary historical sources available to them. Their bibliography brings together, perhaps for the first time, a substantive list of manuscripts and printed sources of specifically Moravian provenance as well as listing many secondary sources relevant to wider religious and historical contexts. Future scholars will no doubt be very grateful to them for making this information available.

The chosen title would appear to do the book a considerable disservice. For many people, "exotic plant" will suggest something strange and foreign which is unlikely to thrive, requires very special treatment and may be unable to adjust to its surroundings. For a church which has roots dating back for the best part of six hundred years, which managed, through times of great difficulty, to conserve the seed which generated such vigorous new growth in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the label seems to be insensitive and inappropriate. The church has shown real skill in setting seed across the world, in adapting to changes of many kinds and even in producing vigorous hybrids!

For many Moravians, not only in this country, the life and vision of John Hus and the sense of being part of this long heritage remain important. It is worth remembering that as early as 1717 Archbishop William Wake, in correspondence with Bishop Daniel Jablonski, acknowledged the church's lengthy episcopal continuity. Although it has been well said that "continuity lies not in looking for tenuous historical links but in the richness of the heritage of ideas and beliefs", it was still an important landmark.

A sense of the ardent evangelism and piety of the early years when new congregations were being established in many parts of the country, and the Settlements were created comes across very clearly. But what may surprise some people is the long persistence of the German influence and the relative exclusiveness and isolation of some of their members and communities during these early years. Questions of ultimate authority and differing views about the status and direction appropriate for the development of the new province created considerable tensions between the British province and the headquarters of the Church in Germany. However, the timing of the arrival of the Moravians in this country would seem to have been uniquely favorable. It was already a period of change and innovation in which much intense religious activity was taking place. Some of this was a direct consequence of the religious upheavals of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, some of it in association with Enlightenment thinking and some within the wider context of pre-industrial economic and social change. The

establishment of schools and workshops to make education more widely available, the exciting experiment of building largely self-sufficient religious communities and the opening of many new places of worship were the major eighteenth century achievements. These sure foundations formed the basis for much of the subsequent development of the church in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and continue to influence and sustain the pattern of church activities.

The authors consider thoughtfully some of the unique or unusual practices characteristic at one time or another within the church; These include the long-lasting practice of using the lot as a mechanism for decision making, the regular holding of the Love-Feast, the early-Morning Easter services held in the Congregation burial grounds and the unbroken line of Episcopal succession. However, many readers are likely to find the proliferation of examples of symbolic and graphic language unnecessarily detailed and laborious. Some of the strange and strained translations of hymns from German to English are surely best forgotten! They will identify more easily with the recognition that the book gives to the role of music-making and congregational singing, to the survival and adaptation of some splendid German chorales and the musical compositions of, for example, LaTrobe.

Inevitably the use of formal administrative sources means that it is often hard to sense the presence of ordinary congregation members or to capture some real sense of what you might call the "Moravian Spirit". To correct this imbalance readers, especially those unfamiliar with the church, would do well to consider the qualities of Simplicity, Happiness, Unintrusiveness, Fellowship and The Ideal of Service, which were used by Bishop Shawe to define that spirit in his book *The Spirit of the Moravian Church*.

There is much in the book to hearten present-day Moravians. The important developments to the history of the church in the second half of the twentieth century, especially the achievements of the Moravian Women's Association, the development of the non-stipendiary ministry amongst both men and women and the closer working links forged with other denominations. Despite disliking the horticultural label members will be encouraged to read that the authors consider that "present members can be proud to regard themselves as guardians of this exotic plant". Finally, this book will be of great value to scholars and should find a place in many libraries. Sadly it is likely prove hard going and for the non-specialist reader. Reviewed by Dr. Anne Hope, Ockbrook

# PRAYER FOCUS - December 2004

(From the U.S. Virgin Islands Daily News)

Adlyn Hamilton was no different from the other youths she grew up with on St. Kitts. Every year at one of the evangelistic meetings at her church, she would go to the altar and make a commitment to follow Christ. Then, she would go back to her old ways. *I loved to dance, and so the sweet music of the steel pan would always be the cause of my backsliding as it were,* she said. At age 16, however, she made a serious commitment. *I recognized that it was not my effort but Christ living in me.*

Today, after a faith journey that kept her in Tanzania for 17 years, the Rev. Binta Adlyn Mgonela, 49, is pastor of Chaguanas and Memorial Moravian Churches on Trinidad. She will be a guest preacher at 7 pm Monday through Friday at New Herrnhut Moravian Church on St. Thomas. On one of the evenings, she will talk about her life in Tanzania.

Mgonela said she had a call to the pastoral ministry at age 17, and make numerous applications to the church without success. Her pastor then advised her that as a woman, her best option at that time was to train as a missionary nurse. In 1976, she left St. Kitts and traveled to England to study nursing. After becoming a registered nurse and certified midwife, Mgonela left England in 1980 and went to Georgia, where she studied psychiatric nursing for six months. She then traveled to Tanzania on her FAITH (Forsaking All I Trust Him) journey. *In abandoning all reliance on one's effort to obtain salvation, the attitude of complete trust in Christ and relying on Him alone for all salvation is what my faith means to me,* Mgonela said. *It is total submittance to the guidance and control with strong conviction of the reality of God's truth revealed in Scripture.*

Tanzania is in East Africa bordering the Indian Ocean between Kenya and Mozambique. Other countries that border Tanzania are Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia. According to Mgonela, Tanzania has more than 130 ethnic groups, each with its own language, but Ki-Swahili is the national language. Needless to say, one of the first things Mgonela did when she arrived in Tanzania was to attend language school. She speaks Swahili, Kiunyammwezi and Kisukuma.

Mgonela remembers vividly the day she arrived in Tanzania - Feb. 20, 1981. *No one met me at the airport.* Mgonela said. *Br. Ted Hartman, the chairman of the Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in America told me that in case no one was there to meet me I should take a taxi to the Luther House, a Lutheran guesthouse.* Mgonela said she stayed at the Luther House, but was unable to get any information from anyone about her arrival. She said she attended the Sunday service of the Lutheran Church and spoke to an elder who gave her the telephone number for the Moravian Church Office in Tabora, a town with a population of 926,000. She was instructed to get on the plane that was leaving for Tabora

Monday morning. When she arrived in Tabora, she was told that her assignment was in Sikonge, but that her house was not ready so she would have to stay in Tabora for a while. When Mgonela finally arrived in Sikonge, her house still was not ready so she stayed in the Moravian Hostel for about a month. She lived alone in Sikonge until she was married in 1984. Mgonela was assigned to the Maternity Department of the Moravian Hospital in Sikonge. From January 1982 she was nursing officer in charge of Maternal and Child Health Services, the Maternity Department, including the pre and post natal wards, labor ward and special care baby unit.

She met her husband, Katema, at the hospital where he was a medical assistant. The union produced four children. Two girls, Ayeola, which means *rainbow*, and Namayombo, which means *something powerful in the heavens*, were the first children and the only two to survive. The first boy died after 10 hours and the other, Kulab'va Katema, at three months old.

*That tore my world away but by the grace of God, I held on to my faith that has always guided my life,* Mgonela said. Kulab'va developed jaundice and succumbed in a matter of a few days. *If I were nearer to proper medical care in Tanzania, I believe he would have lived,* Mgonela said.

In spite of her deep ties to Tanzania, in 1998 Mgonela left to answer God's call on her life to pastoral ministry - the call she received at age 17. *The call never left me and over the years I sought the guidance of God through deep prayer while I maintained an active life in the church. This served to strengthen my faith and belief that I should go into pastoral ministry.* From 1998 to 2002, Mgonela attended the United Theological College of the West Indies and the University of the West Indies, both in Jamaica. She obtained a diploma in ministerial studies from United Theological College and a bachelor's degree in theology from the University of the West Indies. In July 2002 she was ordained at Bethesda Moravian Church on St. Kitts.

*Now I am stationed in Trinidad, a place with many challenges but a joy to work in,* Mgonela said. *I know that even as one of my congregations embark on a building project that is based on faith and complete trust in God that will see us through.* When asked about returning to Tanzania, Mgonela said, *Going back to Tanzania would mean a lot to me even if for a visit as I left with the intention of returning. Therefore, there is need for closure. I feel very strongly that God wants me to serve him in the Caribbean right now.*

1. **Charles Wesley** wrote “Faithful soul, pray, always pray and still in God confide.” Pray for a **group** of Moravians and Lutherans meeting today; ask God to show them His plans for the churches.

2. Pray God to guide the **bishops**, the **ministers** in their meeting and the Christian Education **Directors** in their meetings at **Christ Moravian** and then the Provincial Synod **Planning Committee**.

3. Almighty God, fill my heart with Thy love and truth and make my body Thy holy temple; work Thy will in me today. Christ Jesus, “soon, I implore Thee, come; Thy glory let us see.”

4. Father, on this Saturday, I give you my attention and lift up my soul to Thee. Read Psalm 25 aloud to God.

5. **THE LORD’S DAY** – “Lord, Thy body ne’er forsake; ne’er Thy congregation leave...Thou art our support alone; for on Thy supreme commands all the universe depends.”

6. Today let’s pray for **Prodigals Community** at 1024 Waughtown Street in **Winston-Salem**; they help people to get free from drugs and form good work habits; many churches help them. Monday nights are special at the Prodigal Community.

7. Pray God to show His plans for the churches to Provincial Elders **Bob Sawyer, Rick Sides, Betsy Bombick, Donna Hurt** and **Tom Shelton** meeting today.

8. Talk to God about starting a Bible study group in your neighborhood; **Grace Sidebothom** has helped many people to start such groups; call her a 1-336-659-6139.

9. In addition to your daily devotional reading, could you each day read one chapter of First and Second Timothy for the next 10 days and talk to God about what he inspired to be written in each day’s chapter?

10. Often ask God to fill you and your family with the Holy Spirit. Pray for entire churches.

11. In the back of your Daily Text Book see the names of congregations and pastors in **Labrador**; pray for them.

12. The time for your whole church family to meet. Almighty God, I long “to see Thy power and Thy glory so as I have seen Thee in the sanctuary.” Read Psalm 63 at your breakfast table.

13. On this date in 1732 Moravian **missionaries** arrived on **St. Thomas, West Indies**. Continue to pray for Caribbean Islands trying to rebuild from recent hurricanes. *Can they win souls for God in our times?*

14. Southern Provincial Finance Board meets today. Many churches and charities lack money for their work.

15. Let’s pray for the **26 congregations** and **13 fellowships** and **outstations** in the **European** Continental Moravian Province and PEC chair, Sister **Annogret Scholtz**. *Father, inspire many German Moravians to win souls for Thee.*

16. Fries Memorial’s birthday (1877). Include members and Pastor **Margaret Leinbach** in your prayers. Pray **Henry Fries’** hymn, “Come now, O Lord, and teach us how to pray.”

17. **Vi Hoffman** asks us to pray for Moravian Church in **Reading, PA** 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (1914). Pastor is **Barbara Rich**. Ask God to show them His plans for the church.

18. Let’s pray for the **23 Moravian congregations** in **Alaska** and their board chairman **Peter Green**. Help them to explain the Good news of Jesus to many people in **Alaska** and in **Siberia**.

19. **SUNDAY**, our holy day. In church pray for the people sitting around you; pray this way in Sunday school, too.

20. Today pray again for **Charity Johnson** to win people to faith in Jesus and have Bible studies for them. Charity is learning the language. Praise God for Charity.

21. Winter begins today; it is also St. Thomas Day. Read about **Thomas** in John 14 now. Thank God for giving you life on earth so you can prepare to live with Him in heaven. Make a list of people you’d like to bring to Him.

22. Talk to God about Ephesians 4:14,15 - that we no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by every wind of teaching and by the craftiness of men in their deceitful schemes. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ.”

23. Choose and memorize some Scripture verses today; then use those verses in your daily prayers.

24. **CHRISTMAS EVE** – Why did Jesus come? Talk to Him about the purpose of His coming.

25. **CHRISTMAS DAY** – Jesus’ birthday on earth. What can we give Him?

26. **SUNDAY – St. Stephen’s Day**. While being stoned, **Stephen** saw Heaven and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Read about Stephen in Acts 6 & 7; Stephen, the first Christian Martyr, so impressed Jesus that he made Jesus stand up!

27. “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful“. (Colossians 4:2) “The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10) Be faithful and regular in prayer.

28. **Pray for persons** who want to go on short term mission trips. See [www.shorttermmissions.com](http://www.shorttermmissions.com). CMF International also offers short and long term opportunities, [www.cmf.org](http://www.cmf.org)

29. Often pray for the new Spanish Moravian Church, **Cordero de Dios**, meeting in the former Immanuel Moravian building on **Peachtree Street**. Pray **Enrique Alcantara**, the pastor, will help thousands to know and worship the Savior.

30. Today let’s pray for the **four Moravian congregations** and **two outstations** in **Costa Rica, Central America**, and Dr. **Leo Pixley**, their leader. Ask God to inspire them to talk boldly about Jesus to people around them.

31. Today until January 18 **Southern Province Moravians** can take part in the 24 hour prayer chain. **Moravians around the world** are given different days and nights in which to pray and have continued to do so since 1957. But you can also pray right now! “It is a Precious Thing!”

# PRAYER FOCUS - January 2005

## WHO'S THAT SLEEPING ON THE ALTAR? By Leslie Palma-Simoncek

**(Staten Island Advance)** Two things are different about the new pastor of Great Kills Moravian Church: He says "about" funny, and he refers to the robe he wears on Communion Sundays as a "floppy white dress." Oh, and then there's the mini-laptop he has on the pulpit with him, and the guide dog sleeping at his feet. Rev. Ian Edwards, who took over the congregation this summer, is a native of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. That explains the "about" sound. And the down-to-earth pastor, just ordained in May, seems like the type who's more comfortable in khakis than vestments, hence the dress comment – although he did get married in a kilt. The laptop and the dog, Leroy, are the result of a progressive retinal degeneration that began 20 years ago when Rev. Edwards was just 12. He was 15 when he found out that his rapidly deteriorating sight would never be restored. One of his biggest regrets was that he would never be able to drive. "At the time it wasn't the end of the world," he said. "It was, let's deal with this. I'm still a valid person." He now has only about 5 percent of the vision of a normally sighted person. Any hope for future restoration of his sight is tied up in the controversial issue of stem cell research.

### HEADED FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Edwards grew up in the United Church of Canada, which he described as a Methodist-Presbyterian mix. He became part of the Moravian Church when he was 14. He graduated from Concordia University College of Alberta in Edmonton with a degree in psychology in 1999 and worked for a few years at a software company but always knew "I wanted to have some connection to the church." He enrolled at Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA and began looking for a church after graduating in May.

The Moravian call system for pastors "all happens behind the scenes" between denomination officials and board members of the local congregation. "Then the district president comes to your house with an envelope," Rev. Edwards said. "It's essentially a job offer, and then you come out and do the interview."

Great Kills Moravian was in the market for a new pastor following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Reed Acheson, so the envelope Rev. Edwards received sent him in the direction of Staten Island. "I thought I would end up in Wisconsin," he said, but he and his wife, they met in seminary, were happy to come to New York because they both have family in the East. "Now we're really central and everybody comes through here," he said.

### NEW CHALLENGES

The first-time pastor describes his new job as "scary and exciting," and believes the congregation "cuts me a little slack." This past Sunday, a communion Sunday, he explained that though it's Moravian tradition for the pastor to come to the people to distribute the bread and wine, he thought it would be better for the congregation to come to him at the altar instead.

"The pastor with the vision impairment stumbling around might not make you feel like you're in worship," he joked. With the help of Claudia McGloin, a church elder, the service went off without a hitch. Leroy was snoring quietly by the pulpit. Congregation members are not at all bothered by the change, said Mrs. McGloin. "Our church is growing because of him," she said. "We're very lucky."

During the Children's Message, when a dozen or so young members of the church crowded around the pastor, Rev. Edwards asked a question and then reminded the children, "I can't see your hands up so just shout it right out. Remember this isn't like regular school." Rev. Edwards uses a mini-laptop to help him on the altar. An electronic voice transmitted into a earpiece connected to the computer feeds him his lines and enable him to deliver his sermon without the benefit of notes. "I do a complete manuscript of the service," he said.

In some areas, the pastor said he's got it easier than his sighted colleagues. "In preaching class, they taught us how to make eye contact, but I'm always looking up," he laughed. "I'm like those Disney animatronics. I focus on where the noise is coming from" May Schreiber, secretary of Great Kills Moravia but a member of New Dorp Moravian, described the new pastor as "really gifted. We're having a good time," she said after service on Sunday.

Rev. Edwards has had Leroy, a yellow Labrador retriever who came from Guide Dogs for the Blind in Oregon since just before he started seminary. Although the dog wore a cap and gown at graduation, "he slept through all the classes," the pastor noted. As both Leroy and the pastor learn their way around the church and a new house, they're finding their biggest challenges outdoors. "For both of us, the hardest thing is the crooked intersections in the neighborhood. We can't really get anywhere on our own yet."

The pastor's wife, Eileen Lennon Edwards, is still finishing up classes at seminary. Her 10 year old son Brian is attending PS8. The whole family is enjoying the Island's beaches and parks, the pastor said, and they love Great Kills, crooked intersections and all. "It's close to the city but in this nice little neighborhood," he said. "My wife thinks I've whisked her away to an island paradise. (Copyright SILive.com)

1. **NEW YEAR'S DAY** Tell God His blessings of last year of which you are most grateful. Then tell Him what you especially want His help for in this New Year.

2. **FIRST SUNDAY OF 2005** "Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

3. First Moravian confirmation in Honduras (1932). There are more than 80 Moravian churches there. Pray for the pastors of both the Traditional and the Renewed churches are meeting this month to find God's way

4. Let's pray for Jonathon Boetcher and his sister Andrea, health workers in Liberia, in the capital Monrovia and various villages. Pray God will give Jonathon and Andrea good health.

5. On this date in 1992 New Hope Moravian Church was begun in south Miami by a group of loving folks!

6. **EPIPHANY** is a missionary theme showing Jesus today to people who do not know that He can forgive their sins and give them salvation.

7. Today again let's pray for our beloved Moravian churches everywhere to "reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature". See Ephesians chapter 4 again.

8. Praise God for His work being done in Congo by Tanzanian Moravians (there are now more than 9,000 Moravians in the Congo; pray for their protection from war, AIDS, etc.). Find Congo on your map.

9. **THE LORD'S DAY** "O worship the King all glorious above". It's all about Him.

10. Ask God to guide our World Mission Board in planning to help win souls for Christ in Nepal in partnership with British Moravians.

11. Remember Judy Harke in prayer; she coordinates BWM efforts in Tanzania, Honduras, Guyana and other areas to combat AIDS.

12. First convert was baptized in Antigua in 1757. Today pray for Moravians in Antigua and Eastern West Indies Islands and PEC president, Br. Glenvil Gregory.

13. BWM has commissioned Br. Mark Ebert to work with Br. Livingston Thompson of Jamaica for hurricane relief. Pray for them. It's an ongoing work because of damage to peoples' homes and schools and about 25 badly damaged Moravian churches. Volunteers needed.

14. Give thanks to God for the new booklet being distributed in Tanzania "Uuogope Ukimiwi Kimbilia Kwa Yesu" (Fear HIV/AIDS-Run to Jesus). People there have been reluctant to talk about AIDS.

15. Pray for the 4.4 million people living in Moldova, a former Soviet state, the poorest nation in Europe. Samaritan's Purse helps an orphanage there. Franklin Graham to preach in Chisinau, Moldova July 8 to 10.

16. **Sunday**  
Pray for Michael and Brenda Brent (Friedland) helping people accept Christ as their Savior and training leaders in the town of Split in Croatia.

17. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Dear God, guide us "until we all reach unity in the faith...to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" Ephesians 4:13. Pray for Jorgen Boytler and Svend Soe and other leaders in Christiansfeld, Denmark and their missionary work in Albania, starting churches.

18. Pray for Provincial Elders; they meet today. Pray for the Moravian school at Star Mountain near Ramallah, and Rauda Marouf Khourya and other workers among handicapped children.

19. Today let's pray for pastors and leaders of Moravian missions in north India; Brn.Thsespal Kundan, Elijah Gergen, Dechen Chamgha, Thomas Rungwei, Kagauchung Naga, Nagendra Pradhan and Samson Thangpa.

20. Pray for Walter Bishop, Christy Parsons Clore, Rebecca Craver, Judy Knopf, Hank Jackson, Russell May, Suzanne Parker, Tracy Robinson, Suzanne Parker and Tim Sapp becoming ordained Moravian ministers or earning advanced degrees.

21. Konnoak Hills anniversary (1951). Pastor John D. Rights said "We want to be a beacon of light and show Christ's love in our neighborhood." Ask God to give them many opportunities.

22. Today let's pray for Salemtowne Moravian Retirement community and director Joe Lydon and people who live, and work and volunteer there. That God guide and bless them.

23. **SUNDAY** Pray for the Moravian mission work on British island of Tortola; a fellowship exists there now. Give them a passion to talk about Jesus.

24. Pray for the work of the *Moravian-Episcopal Dialogue Team* and the *Christian Churches Together in the USA Team* and our *conversations with Reformed denominations*. Pray God show them His wisdom.

25. Often pray for the leaders of business and industry, especially those working in many countries so that both rich and poor will be benefited.

26. Almighty God, protect us from people who weaken our faith in Thee and Thy word. Give us faith to believe your Word.

27. In addition to Elders and Trustees, many churches have missions, Christian Education and other committees. Pray for persons on these groups.

28. New Eden's birthday (1923). New Eden has been joined by Immanuel, Pastor is Br. Bob Peak. Also West Palm Beach Church (1966) anniversary pastor is tri-lingual Ofrecioano Julius. Pray God will use them all.

29. German Moravians are trying to help strengthen believers and spread the Gospel in Estonia and Latvia on the Baltic Sea. May God fill them with the Holy Spirit.

30. Pray for the President and Vice President and other officials of your country by name.

31. **Prayer Day for Retired Ministers.** Pray for Sunnyside Ministry director Roma Combs and Assistant Director Anne Marie Stott and the approximately 60 volunteers that come every week and approximately 45 volunteers that also help.

Miracles have happened at Sunnyside. Pray for people who come for help.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I'm happy to report that refurbishment of the Mission Residence is under way. The carpeting downstairs has been pulled up revealing beautiful white oak flooring. Our hope is that we can get by without a major sanding and refinishing. We have received a monetary gift to help purchase area rugs. We need a sofa, an easy chair, end tables, pictures, lamps and a queen sized bed. Emily Fernbach has suggested the addition of a porch swing and several rocking chairs. Donations are quite welcome. Our scheduled workday is November 20<sup>th</sup>. If you can help, let Sheila Beaman know.

Br. Mark Ebert loaned me a book entitled *Zinzendorf – The Ecumenical Pioneer* by A.J. Lewis. I highly recommend it to you. The author, a British Moravian pastor, covers the founding of the Unitas Fratrum and an extensive outline of the various encounters with leaders of many denominations which Zinzendorf actively sought. His respect for the beliefs and practices of these different groups added to the total fabric of Christianity in his judgment and he had a vision of the Church universal which seems to be as relevant today as it was then. He was totally caught up with the role of mission in the church, to preach the Gospel and Christ crucified. Because he stayed focused on that, the Moravian Church became recognized for its commitment to the discipling of souls for our Lord. The Moravian Book and Gift Shop has copies in paperback if you are interested.

Reading this book has given me a renewed interest in working with other groups in following the Great Commission. An example would be the Baptist Men's Organization or the Mennonites, both of whom have expertise in disaster relief. Partnering with Campus Crusade for Christ and Intervarsity in reaching out to unbelievers is something we are already doing. Included in this list, we work with are Overseas Mission Fellowship and Youth With a Mission.

At one time the Moravian Church was considered a world leader in mission. What would it take to get back to that blessed state of service to Him?

Jack Geis

## A LETTER FROM INDIA

Greetings to you in Jesus' Name from us and children at Mercy and Grace, India. We thank God for your loving, blessing and prayerful work and service you are going through your wonderful newsletter for sharing news to those who wants to know more of you and your missions worldwide for Christ and His kingdom.

We are deeply touched by the contents of your newsletter. It is a blessing for us to have visited your website to know more of your work there. We believe that there is no greater service than that of sharing our talents, wisdom, knowledge, skills,

money, time and some of our possessions to those who are in need.

We are praying for all of your needs that you mentioned in your newsletter and praying for all of our brethren who contributed news and articles and messages in your newsletter. We appreciated their love for the people in Christ as Jesus did and showed us how to love one another and how to share, care, help, love, pray and bless each other as we are one in Him, in His friendship and in His fellowship.

We need your prayers for our small Lord's Work to win the dying souls for Christ and His kingdom and need your prayers to meet pressing and basic needs of our children at orphanage, as we are running this residential school for destitute child labor, street children, neglected, school drop outs and orphans. All of these children are growing in His mercy and grace and studying the word of God, learning the truth, singing songs in everyday for glorifying God. We are praying to start a Bible School for them.

My wife and I both are dedicated, committed, involved in helping the children and families to win them for Christ and His kingdom. We are small group of Christians who are work for His kingdom. Please pray and think to send us a copy of your printed newsletter by postal mail to use it in our Bible studies to share all of the messages with our brethren to motivate them. Midhava & Nirmala. India

## ATHI RIVER ORPHANAGE

Michael Tesh, a member of Christ Moravian Church works in the Athi River outside of Nairobi, Kenya. He works with an organization called Youth with a Mission. He feels God has called him to build orphanages and work with children in Africa. He is 23 years old and has been in Africa for about 19 months. The YWAM base in Athi River had started a small orphanage called "Ray of Hope" where Michael began working. Initially they had 13 children. Michael and his supporters raise enough money to build a better and larger orphanage. It was completed in June and can house 25 children.

Currently, there are 16 children ranging in age from 5 to 15. One of his duties is helping the children with their schoolwork. Time is spent each day learning about God, and they travel to local churches to talk about their faith. They are learning to milk the cow owned by the orphanage. The chickens there also provide income by selling the eggs. There is no running water or electricity, but a generator provides electricity for a few hours each night.

Michael's vision is to continue with this ministry and increase the number of children to 25 or 30. Eventually, he wants to go to the coast where there are so many orphans and build an orphanage there. The couple he works with, John and Habona Kisamwa, are helping Michael to learn about the culture and how to help his ministry grow.

What a privilege it is to be in contact with so many interesting people around the world that are involved in new work or reporting on past work in missions! We begin with a short report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trail of Tears Tour from September. Lola Null is the oldest daughter of Rev. Warren and Doris Wenger, long time missionaries to Nicaragua and Honduras. Thanks Lola! By the way, we hear Sol Mockicin is back at work in Oaks. His health is improving, but still is not up to full steam. Next is a book review of a history of the Moravian Church in Great Britain which provoked a lot of interest because of a strange name. But the book gives us a very good analysis of the long and difficult role of the church in a hostile venue. We are grateful to Dr. Hope and The Moravian Messenger for this review. Br. Al Reynolds of Maryland gives us two newspaper biographies of present day Moravian pastors who have overcome great difficulties to answer God's call to the ministry. These both touched my heart. The first comes from The US Virgin Island Daily News by reporter Joycelyn Hewlett about Rev. Adlyn Hamilton Mgonela, a Moravian Pastor in Trinidad. The second is from the Staten Island Advance in New York City by Leslie Palma-Simoncek about Rev. Ian Edwards, a Moravian Pastor in Great Kills. Thanks Br. Al for getting us these inspirational reports about people in our time who are doing great things for the Lord. We share portions of a letter from grateful readers who live in India but have discovered ONWARD on the World Wide Web. The world is getting smaller! Then another report from Michael Tesh shows the growth of his mission in Kenya. We also have the President's message from far off Sherwood Forest in West Winston-Salem! Thanks, Jack. Our Bishop Bob Iobst gets double salary for TWO months of Pray Every Day. We are all blessed by his worldwide vision of the Lord's work.

I had the privilege of meeting with the BWM in Bethlehem and being very impressed at the high quality of people on this vital board. It was a very important meeting with some important decisions being made. With Sam Gray and Will Sibert on board we can look forward to some great days ahead. The Lord is at work! Br. Vernon Nelson took Br. Bill Cranford and me on a tour of the Tulpehocken and Oley Valleys in PA to see the home of Henry Antes, the first Leinbach home, both from the 1600's as well as two of the Muhlenberg churches. Some trip! JHG