O N W A R D

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Looking to 'Go' Resulted in Journey to Hope

Three men in the Sister Bay and Ephraim Moravian congregations, tired of committee meetings, opted instead for action – we decided to gather some friends and go somewhere for a week's work in disaster relief. Pastor Maggie Wellert suggested we invite three other churches in the ministerium to participate, so we formed an ecumenical group of Lutherans, Episcopalians, and Moravians. We chose the name Northern Door Disaster Responders after our bucolic Door County, Wisconsin's "thumb," that separates the waters of Green Bay from our beautiful inland sea, Lake Michigan.

Brother Mark Ebert's eloquent call for volunteers to Hope, Indiana and Pastor Kerry Krauss' inspiring invitation moved us to send a team. In November three couples drove from Door County to Hope and worked on a house belonging to a young couple with three small boys. Their tidy ranch home had been devastated by the June flood. Both mom and dad were fully employed, but their resources were quickly exhausted -– flooring, wallboard, insulation, wiring, furniture, and appliances were all ruined and had to be replaced. Other teams had been there before us, and the family had also worked regularly on the house.

For a week we painted together, hung interior doors and kitchen cabinets, and installed trim, all under the helpful direction of Tim Thayer, one of three concerned local men who acts as foremen for visiting teams. Tim is a Methodist, further contributing to the ecumenical mix of our team. Supplies for our work were purchased from a local hardware store from $6000 sent to the Hope Moravian Church by the Moravian Disaster Relief fund. None of the more than 2000 damaged homes in the area that are receiving help are owned by Moravians.

The Hope church, under the leadership of Pastor Kerry, was a warm host – our team stayed in the Hope Mission House next door to the church, we were guests of the Women's Fellowship at their annual Turkey Dinner on Saturday, worshipped

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January in Kenya

The New Year has started out great. Everyone is well and happy. Blessing is such a joy. Ceci and I are staying very busy. Our baby is doing well and growing. She is one month old today. The children are doing well. Our 7 new ones have adjusted and are in school.

After our December break the preschool has a new paint job. A team came in and painted during December. It is a pretty blue. We have 83 preschool children enrolled for the New Year.

During December we held 2 Bible camps. We had 120 children at each camp. They local children really love them. We also feed them, and that helps. We held one January 3 and it was well attended. We are going to have one this coming weekend. It is a great ministry to the local children. Our children help out a lot and have a great story about their Christian beliefs.

The entire Ray of Hope Orphanage family

Faridah, Bibi and Dickson are starting High School the second week in February. They are excited and nervous. They will be living at the school. Please pray for them as they begin this adventure. The children send you their love. God bless you, and we are praying for everyone.

Michael, Cecilia and Blessing

A Message From Our President—Hope

Is despair your daily bread? Will hope ever grow again?

When I was a child, I learned the nursery rhyme…

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.

All the King' horses and all the King's men

Could not put Humpty together again.

Every one of us has felt like Humpty Dumpty at least once in our lives. Maybe, you are caught in this trap right now. You may be so far in debt financially that you need to win the lottery just to break even. You may be in a relationship that imploded on you and you don't see a way of reconciling. Like Humpty Dumpty, you had a great fall!

Sure, you can fool yourself into thinking that if only you can buy one more lottery ticket that you will hit the jackpot. But in reality, you are just fooling yourself for that is false hope. That is placing your hope in someone or something that truly cannot help you. As the saying goes, "all that glitters is not gold."

When you loose hope, you give up, you give in, and your will is broken. It is like you are thrown out in an endless sea of despair and believe the lie that you will never be rescued. Instead of facing your problems alone without hope of victory, you can stand with Jesus and he will get you through.

Hope is a belief in a positive outcome in one's life based on your relationship with Christ. Hope is the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that the events will turn out for the best because your will is rooted in God's will. Hope is one of the three theological virtues (faith, hope and charity) which are spiritual gifts of God. Hope is a distinct form of positive thinking, which refers to a therapeutic or systematic process for reversing pessimism. The term false hope refers to a hope based entirely around a fantasy or an extremely unlikely outcome.

God gave us hope that all things are possible if we believe in him. As you travel life's journey, you can take the road from hopelessness to hope and pray that God will breathe genuine hope into your life.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 (NIV)

Evon Crooks, member of New Philadelphia Moravian Church, is the President of the Mission Society Board of Directors.

Prayer!

Praise!

Worship!

Share!

FIRST FRIDAY Prayer Gatherings Began

What do prayer, praise, worship, sharing of experiences, sprinkled with a bit of food in there all add up to on the First Friday of each month in 2009? They form the foundation of the FIRST FRIDAY Prayer Gatherings at 7 pm , Christ Moravian Church which began on Friday, February 6th.
Renewing a past adventure in mission and prayer, First Fridays are a time to fellowship with others about sharing and singing the Gospel, learning and praying for our Moravian missionaries; short and long-term. **March** First Friday will share the most current status of the Moravian work in Sierra Leone with special guests Mohammad and Safiatu Braima. April's gathering will present the work in Tanzania. The Prayer Gathering brings praise and worship, a presentation/discussion, and prayer followed by fellowship. Make it a regular monthly event on your calendar.

For more information, contact the Rev. Dan Nelson at *packer-*

Zimbabwe—Crisis and Cholera Kills Thousands

Woman
"hospitalized" with
cholera

The political struggle in Zimbabwe has prompted many to share their experiences as help is slow in coming for the thousands that are losing their homes, the migrants carrying cholera, and the spread of this major health concern due to failing sanitation measures. "We are all terrified at what they are going to destroy next.....I mean they are actually ploughing down brick and mortar houses leaving people literally in the streets with nothing" says John Winter. "We already support 8 adult people and a child in our little home, and electricity is going up next month by 250% as is water. We thank you for getting word out about this political and social crisis as our radios are down now as well as we're feeling quite isolated."

The number of people reported to be infected by cholera in Zimbabwe has risen to almost 65,000, latest data from the World Health Organization showed on Tuesday.

Some 64,701 people have caught

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Third Annual Feet First Youth in Mission Summit

For the group of young adults who attended this year's "Feet First" Mission Summit in Wisconsin, Thanksgiving weekend was truly a time of giving thanks to God. The first night of the conference while walking back after dinner, a small group of us saw a shooting star falling directly over the lodge. It looked to be only ten feet above the roof and showed us that God had brought us to this special place for a reason. The group that attended was a smaller group than previous years, but the size was perfect because we all got to know each other and work together on our shared goals.

A group of four from Lititz, PA (including myself) made the long journey and met with two women from Indiana and a group from all over Wisconsin. We all took different paths to get to Mt. Morris Conference Center, but our similar hearts and love for God's work brought us all together that weekend.

The weekend began with what turned out to be, for me, the most important part of the entire experience. Led by Jill Kolodzeij, we wrote down those things holding us back from a deeper relationship with God and threw our lists into the fire. The feeling of being unburdened and truly giving God control of our lives has remained with us after returning to our daily lives. That small act has made a HUGE difference in our connections with God and the way we live our lives.

The event would not have been the success it was without Jill's hard work, dedication to helping our generation, as well as her love for God. She lined up two wonderful speakers, both having decades of mission experience between them.

Matt Knaap guided us to find the groups of people needing our love and support and missional attention. He also spoke to us about finding our true direction and values and staying focused on those values, even when others try to distract us from our goals. Matt shared with us what mission is, what it is not, and how to move on from supposed failures without giving up hope. He also touched on following Jesus in our mission and evolving our Moravian roots to fit the current needs of God's children without losing our much-cherished traditions. His knowledge is invaluable to our generation of young adults eager and passionate about being involved missionally at home, nationally, and internationally. As it always has, mission begins at home. Matt challenged all of us to brainstorm and pray about how we can BE missional for God every day. For most of the sixteen hour drive home in snow and sleet, the four of us returning to Lititz, PA came up with a lot of ideas on things we can be doing in our own congregation and community to spread God's love and mercy.

Rick Nelson was the second speaker and he shared a wealth of information on the current situation in Nicaragua. In September 2007, Hurricane Felix left a path of damage and destruction in its wake. The Atlantic coastal villages in Nicaragua were severely affected and are in need of rebuilding and much more. He also gave us an outline of what to expect and what to pack when going on a mission trip to this area.

What eventually came from Rick's advice and the entire weekend is a group of ten of us that planned our own mission trip to Nicaragua. The group traveled January 3-13, 2009 and consisted of ten college-age adults from Wisconsin, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. The trip included attending the Moravian Nicaraguan National Youth Conference as well as traveling to the village of Sisin to help rebuild the Moravian Church there. We were very excited about continuing our work together beyond Feet First Mission Summit.

Being one of the first mission teams to combine people our age from all over the country is very motivating and we look forward to growing in faith and God over time. Although we are using the Moravian Board of World Mission as a resource, including previous connections made in Nicaragua, our trip was planned and executed by our own team. Every organization has its limits, especially financial ones, and realizing this, our group has branched out and worked together to make this dream a reality. Most importantly, this collaboration between Moravian young adults from all over the country will hopefully lead to other Moravians working together to answer the needs and prayers of others.

The most important thing to come from this year's "Feet First" Summit was the call for us to bring young Moravians together from around the country. We are challenging ourselves to follow God's call to live by Jesus' example. We want our Christ community to reach as far and as many as it can. The college years are a time when we need that extra support from our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pulling ideas and resources, we hope to continue in missional planning as well as making connections spanning states and countries. This Nicaragua trip and our visions for the future can pave the way for others with a heart for church and missions.

Thanks so much to Jill, for her hard work and constant support in our journey. Thanks also to the BWM for their help and providing us with this annual retreat that connects young Moravians in missional living.

Submitted by Rebecca Frey, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

"following Jesus in our mission and evolving our Moravian roots to fit the current needs of God's children without losing our much-cherished traditions"

Deeper
Deeper
Deeper

Is God calling you to use your musical gifts and talents through Antioch Mission Service?

The Antioch Project of the Board of World Mission is seeking **TWO** Antioch Mission Servants to teach at the School of Music and Worship (EMA) in Limón, Costa Rica.

Antioch Mission Servants should exhibit the following characteristics:

- A recognition of God's presence in their lives and in the lives of others.
- A leadership style that operates from a spirit of humility.
- A passion for service coupled with a desire to assume a simple lifestyle.
- A willingness to discover and share gifts and talents.
- The ability to be flexible and adapt to new environments.
- The desire to learn and a willingness to be stretched beyond their comfort zones.
- Good interpersonal and community building skills.

Applicants for the position at the **School of Music and Worship** should be able to teach basic **music theory, guitar and / or keyboard**. Experience in other instruments and vocal skills are also helpful.

Classes at the School of Music and Worship will begin **August 3, 2009** and end **May 31, 2010**. The complete year of Antioch service is from **August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2010**

Antioch Mission Servants receive compensation for travel, room and board as well as a small monthly stipend. The total yearly budget will be approximately $15,000 -17,000. Half of the support for the year (or $7,500 - $8,500) is to be raised by the Antioch Mission Servant (with guidance from the Board of World Mission) and the other half is provided by the Board of World Mission.

Applicants would use the summer months (June, July 2009) for fundraising and orientation / preparation. However, it is possible for the applicant to have a summer job somewhere else while this process is taking place.

Applications, resumes and references from pastors should be submitted by March 1, 2009

Please contact Lisa Mixon (lisa@mcnp.org 610-868-1732) or Sam Gray (sgray@mcsp.org 336-773-1732) for a full job description and additional information.

Looking to Go

(Continued from Page 1)

with the congregation on Sunday, and received much encouragement from all we spoke to.

We went to Hope to repair a house; we returned to Door County realizing that instead we had helped a young family get back into their home for Christmas. We are buoyed up with the joy that comes from doing God's work faithfully.

Submitted by David Schrader

Zimbabwe

(Continued from Page 2)

the disease during the outbreak, which started in August, and 3,295 among them have died. The latest data indicated that 1,792 new cases and 66 deaths have been added since Monday. On Monday, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said President Robert Mugabe had agreed to allow a top-level United Nations team to visit Zimbabwe to find ways of curbing a cholera epidemic and a hunger crisis. The desperate humanitarian crisis has come on the back of a political stand-off between Mugabe and chief rival Morgan Tsvangirai over the share of powers in a unity government.

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March Pray Every Day 2009

1. **1st Sunday in Lent**-1457 beginning of the Unity of the Brethren in Bohemia (Moravian Church. Pray for the leaders of the 19 provinces of the worldwide Moravian Church. Pray for unity in all things.

2. Pray for Safiatu and Mohamed Braima and the church in Luawa-Yiehun, Sierra Leone WA and their ministry there. Ask God to provide leaders, workers and supplies to continue building that spiritual community.

3. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem as directed by Jesus. Pray for the leaders of our country, the United Nations and all other nations around the world. Pray that we would once more become a God fearing nation of believers who lead by the way we live our lives.

4. As winter draws to a close and we approach spring and the coming summer season, pray for the Moravian camps in North America. Pray for camp Hope, Van-Es, Mt. Morris and Laurel Ridge.

5. Pray for the Woo family ministering. Ask God for a special measure of peace and joy for them today.

6. How will they know unless someone goes to teach them? How can they learn if they do not have the scriptures in their own language? Pray for the Morees and for translators working to provide God's word through out the world.

7. Pray for Michael and Cecelia Tesh and the children at the Ray of Hope orphanage. Praise God for the growth in the ministry. Thank Him for the chickens, which are providing eggs for food and income. Praise Him for the lives saved there.

8. **2nd Sun in Lent**-God made his covenant to include you and me and the generations that follow us. It is our responsibility to teach the next generation about His wondrous love. Thank Him for trusting us to do that. What a privilege it is.

9. Praise God for Drs. Peggy and Bill Hoffman who are serving through the HIV/AIDES ministry in Tanzania. Pray for the millions of people whose lives have been impacted by this disease.

10. Pray for the Suttons who are serving in Asia. Pray that they will be safe and healthy. Pray that many lives will be added to the kingdom through their sacrifices.

11. Pray for the Board of World Mission. Lift Will Sibert, Sam Gray, the directors, the office administrators, volunteers assisting.

12. Pray for Steve Marx and his family in Redlands, Ca., serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship.

13. Pray for the Staff and students of Alaska Christian College as they prepare to return to their villages, pray that the Holy Spirit will remain strong and evident in their lives. Pray for their safety and their peace.

14. 1849) First Moravian missionaries arrived in Bluefields, Nicaragua. Pray for the students from ACC who are going to Nicaragua on a short-term mission trip this summer

15. **3rd Sun. in Lent**-Praise God in the sanctuary. Praise Him with your music, with your worship, with your talents and with your very lives. Acknowledge Him in all things. Give Him the glory in all things.

16. Pray for Heather and Brian Marx serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship. Pray that god will bless their marriage and their service. Pray that they will be safe and well as they minister in Indonesia.

17. Father as the world around us celebrates and remembers St. Patrick, help us to focus on You and Your saving grace.

18. As Mary sat at your feet and listened to you, oh Lord, Grant me the wisdom to be still and listen to your voice.

19. Pray for the Antioch Project today. Pray for Morgan Smith and Roman Brady in Puerto Limon, Costa Rica. Keep them close to you, Jesus. Bless their ministry and send many young people into their lives who will come to know and serve you.

20. Pray for Glenna Tasedan and the church in Labrador. Bless her time there and encourage those whom she is serving with a renewed sense of who you are.

21. Pray for Dusty Harrison, serving with Greek Inter Varsity Campus Ministries at Clemson University and all others ministering on college campuses. Pray for those students who're being drawn into a saving knowledge of Christ.

22. **4th Sun. in Lent**-By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" Ep.2:8. Enable us to share this wondrous gift with others who come into our lives.

23. As we begin another week, help us to keep our eyes on you, Jesus. Make us ever mindful of the very gift of life, which you give us. Encourage their hearts and fill their day with joy.

24. Pray for the lonely and depressed. Ask God to bring someone into their lives to cheer and encourage them. Pray for Dot Beam and all others like her who desire to worship you but are restricted by physical circumstances.

25. Father, fill out hearts with wonder of Your goodness as you hold us in Your strong arms each minute of our lives.

26. Lord Jesus, Thank you for Your saving work on the cross. Grant that we may never lose the comforts from Thy death.

27. Jesus, bring pastors strong in Your Word to our churches around the world where they are absent. Renew our current pastors with passion that exceeds all understanding so Your Kingdom may come—Your Will be done.

28. Lord, abide with us. Teach us with You, to mourn our sins, and to stay by You each day.

29. **5th Sun. in Lent**-Father, Have mercy upon me. Help me to cling to You as we follow the cross through fasting and praying.

30. Father, reveal to me where You need me today. I pray that all I do, I do in the context which speaks most to Your people, wherever they are. Amen.

31. Pray that **all** come to You with expectant hearts and minds.

To contribute to Pray Every Day next month, email Coordinator Helen Gulledge at: Helen@AKCC.org.

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